

**Leyden Council on Aging**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**September 13, 2022**  
**Town Hall**  
**4:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:30.

**Present:** Gilda Galvis, Linda Baker, Linda Allis, Andrea Zimmerman, Kathy Fritz, mary Glabach, Michèle Higgins.

**Absent:** ∅

**Guests:** ∅.

**Minutes:** Kathy moved to accept the minutes of the meeting on August 2. Linda B. seconded. All approved. The minutes were accepted.

**Budget:** Gilda reported that we have \$6,198.53 total left in our accounts. We have spent \$230 on our membership, \$350 for Piper (footcare clinic), \$134.47 at Foster's for our first soup luncheon and \$87 to Peg Brown for reimbursement for postage for the birthday card program. Amended: Gilda corrected the above statement to reflect that the Fred W. Wells Trust Fund had awarded us \$1,500 this year and not \$1,00 (which was last year), and so our accounts should be at \$6,698.53 instead of the \$6,198.53.

**Meals/Activities:** We reported that our first sit-down luncheon was very well attended. We had twenty attendees, more than we expected from our Covid hiatus. The Bernardston Police joined us and met and talked with people. We distributed the File of Life papers and asked Linda Allis to ask TRIAD for more.

The next lunch after that will be a Friday drive through on Sept. 23 from Bernardston Country Corner, We are going to try to gauge comparative attendance between a sit-down and a drive through. We noted that the people who come to the drive throughs are not often the same who come for the meals. Gilda will make arrangements with the Bernardston Country Corner for the drive through, and Mary will pick up. Our drive through on October 21 will be from Pine Hill.

We think, for now, that we want to have one sit-down luncheon per month and one drive-through per month until January. Our next indoor luncheon will also be a soup luncheon on October 5. Linda B. will make her squash apple soup. We will serve

sandwiches options and cookies for that. Michèle will pick up the groceries at Foster's and remind Linda to fix the soup!

We talked about reviving our coffees and decided to start on the 28th of September by word of mouth. Linda B. will also put that information on the slips that she makes to go into the lunches. (We will also have some of our games out.) Kathy and Michèle will bake for that one. After that, we will have a coffee on the 12th and 26th of October and see how they go.

Also, Michèle has emailed Robin Neipp about the coffee maker in the kitchen. It seems that either the Café or Robin herself leases it from somewhere, and that Michèle would like to talk to Robin about what would be involved for the COA to possibly take over whatever arrangement she has. Robin said that she would call Michèle when she returns to town.

We will discuss having a Veterans' Day Breakfast at our next meeting.

Linda A. will talk to a representative of Greenfield Savings Bank to do a presentation for us on scams beginning in November. She is aware that they provide this service to other COA's/Senior Centers in the area. We think that having such a program to coincide with a luncheon would assure some attendance since historically, programs that we offered in the evenings were not well attended.

We will begin our exercise class on October 11 for six weeks with the option to extend if requested. Class will take place at 10:30 on Tuesday.

Beth Kuzdeba had approached the COA about provided CPR class next year. The Board of Health provided one last fall by using ARPA funding which will not be available next year. She wondered if we could use our grant money to fund this. We will look into it when the time comes closer.

#### **By-laws rewrite:**

Kathy made a motion to accept the rewritten by-laws to include adding the word "staggered" in the section which discusses membership. Mary seconded. The vote was unanimous.

#### **New Kitchen Manager:**

With Sue Howarth's retirement, the kitchen needs a new manager. Andrea will take on that responsibility.

**Our appointments as “Interim” Members:**

We talked about how insulted we are that the Selectboard has decided to keep our appointments as “interim.”

We collected some thoughts, and Michèle will write a letter which she will read at the next evening Selectboard meeting, probably Sept, 26. The letter will include the following thoughts: that we are being held as a second class committee; how this puts our past respect into question; we are volunteers; we handle no money. We want them to tell us why they will not appoint us as a “regular” committee. Robbie urged everyone to attend this meeting. Michèle pointed out that she has learned that the Selectboard now wants a written request with a reason to be put on the agenda. Michèle will provide that to Michele Giarusso. Michèle will also post this as a COA meeting to avoid conflict with Open Meeting Law.

Kathy made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:43. Linda B. seconded. All approved.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **October 4, 2022, at 4:30 at Town Hall.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Michèle Higgins, Secretary/Chair