

Freetown Council on Aging
227 Chace Road, Freetown, MA 02717
Meeting Minutes
February 8, 2024

Members Present: Robin Kendrick, Marion Rylands, Bruce Wilbur, Sonny Barros, Ruth Ferland, Brenda Motta, Rebecca Frias

Absent: Evelyn Alves

Three Town residents were also in attendance.

Call to Order

Robin Kendrick called the meeting to order at 1:10pm.

Secretary's Report

The meeting minutes from January 11, 2024 were reviewed. Brenda Motta made the motion to accept the minutes. This was seconded by Bruce Wilbur. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report

This agenda item was tabled.

New Business

- ***Review options for new wheelchair van and make recommendation to the BoS***

Several wheelchair van options have been reviewed. There is money earmarked for \$25,000 to purchase a new vehicle. The town is anxious for us to purchase a new van as there are several challenges noted with the present van. Rebecca has researched several options and has received several quotes for a Ford Transit nine passenger van with a cost of \$76,000 - \$82,000.

Brenda made a motion to recommend to the Board of Selectman to purchase the van. Robin Kendrick seconded. All in favor.

- **FY25 Budget**

The budget was reviewed by Rebecca and Bruce Wilbur. There were two areas where it was decided to increase the budget which included recreation and food. One thousand dollars (\$1,000) was added to each category.

- **Update on Nutrition Program**

Rebecca provided an update on the Nutrition Program. The program is going very well with all our seniors quite happy and content with our menu offerings. At this time there is a capacity limit of 40. All guests are required to register. Lunches are offered at 11:30 AM on Tuesdays. Senior Work Off Program volunteers have been utilized for serving.

Old Business

- ***Update on PODs***

Carl Bizarro provided an informative update on the PODs. The specification sheets were circulated for review. The projected cost of the project is \$247,000 with an additional cost of \$75,000 to connect the existing building with the PODs. The plans are 2 X 6 solid construction with a ceiling height of 9 feet. The doors and windows are also of quality construction. Awaiting conceptual drawings. The proposed time frame for completion is approximately the end of June.

- ***Visit to the Upton COA/Library Building***

Rebecca, along with several of our seniors, visited the Upton COA/Library Building. Although the building was beautiful, the group was not impressed with the planning and totally displeased with the open concept. The exercise room is also not utilized due to the necessity for supervision.

- ***Written Policy for Senior Profile Newsletter***

Rebecca checked in with various COA Directors to check to see if they had their own policies and who might advertise in their Newsletter. In order to advertise in our Newsletter, the event must occur in Freetown or the event must be sponsored by a business or group in Freetown and benefits the population we serve.

- ***Vertical Platform Lift***

There is no update at this time. Additional weigh-in is expected.

Robin Kendrick suggested naming a room in the new PODs after Jeannette Tisdale, who worked tirelessly for the COA. All agreed this is a great suggestion. A plaque will be designed in her honor once the PODs are completed.

Brenda Motta, our SHINE counselor has suggested bringing in a speaker to meet with our Seniors in March to discuss Medicare options. Brenda will provide general information concerning the Medicare plan.

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Sonny Barros. This was seconded by Brenda Motta.

The next Board meeting will be held on 3/14/24 at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Garell
Senior Clerk

