Council on Aging Meeting January 9, 2024 (presented on February 13, 2024)

The scheduled January meeting of the Council on Aging was held at the Bellingham Senior Center Chairperson Kay Page called the meeting to order at 11:05 am. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance to the flag followed by a moment of silence. All members of the Board were present. 10 persons from the public were also present.

**Secretary's Report** (Brenda Griffin): Motion to accept minutes was made by Glenna Laverdiere, seconded by Tina Arsenault, with unanimous approval by the board.

**Treasurer's Report (**Tina Arsenault):

Monthly general fund financial report: Town-42.98% of $267,397.00 spent as of 1-3-2024

* Postage $ 561.00
* Gas heat $679.00
* Office Equipment & Contracts $1,025.00
* Professional Services $945.00
* Janitorial Services $302.00
* Office Supplies $39.00
* Operating Supplies & Equipment $73.00

**Total:** $3,628.00

* COA Gift Fund-current balance of $16,546.07 \*pays for lunch program, sheds, memorial designations, donations and things that the town budget can’s support
* Supportive Day -current balance of $37,791.13
* Elderly Recreation-current balance of $14,765.81 \*pays for instructors, senior center supplies example: playing cards

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report was made by Tsune Roberts, seconded by Mingming He, with unanimous approval by the board.

**Chairman’s Report (**Kay Page): The Christmas Party was absolutely wonderful. Thanks to everyone who helped which was a joint effort of BESG and COA. Peggy’s skit was wonderful-such talent! Everyone had a great time and Eva did an incredible job.

New Year’s Eve was great. The pizza and appetizers were delicious. Everyone had a great time.

**Director's Report** (Josie Dutil-Executive Director):

Highlights: Our building was filled with Holiday spirit during the month of December. The building was beautifully decorated thanks to Eva and her elves, and our Christmas and New Year’s Eve parties were enjoyed by so many people. Our new tables and chairs came in during the week before Christmas and we had so many people- including tax write-off and Frank from the pool room come to help build them. BIG special thank you to Del Cournoyer who single handedly put together 82 of the 140 chairs!! The black and white tables & chairs are Black Hawk colors. We may add the Black Hawk logo to one of our walls. The tables and chairs were financed by a $5,000 grant with the BESG & COA splitting the remaining costs. Our old tables and chairs have been repurposed at the VFW – it was fun being at the New Year’s Eve party on the 30th of December knowing we were sitting on chairs from the center.

UPCOMING EVENTS-PROJECTS-SIGNUPS-NOTICES

* Please take note that the senior center will be closed on Monday, January 15th in honor of Martin Luther King Day.
* Our monthly Rainbow Café will take place this Thursday, January 11th at 2:30pm – please join us.
* We’ve postponed hosting the Theme Song Trivia led by Jeff Loverude due to family illness.
* For those of you who have Android phones/devices, we will be hosting Tech Connect on 1/16 at 1pm to show you all the ways your phone/device can make life easier.
* On Friday, the 19th we will be hosting a program called Boston History & Poetry led by historian Anthony Samarco at 1pm not 2pm as previously advertised.
* On Friday, the 26th at 1pm, singer Alexandria Connelly will be performing for us in the dining room. Look her up-she is fabulous.
* Next month Selectboard members will be attending the Coffee Hour on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. They’ve requested this. They have no agenda but want to join the discussions and become more in tune with what seniors need. Kay: Seniors will have an opportunity to ask them questions and meet our town leaders. Josie: Many towns already do this. Ann Odabashian and Sahan Sahin will alternate attending monthly.
* Inclement weather: When schools close, we do not have transportation. Feel free to call to see if we are open. We will open depending on the weather. The phones will always be answered. We always close if the Town Hall is closed.
* Snow plowing: Yesterday was the first day we’ve been plowed. We parked the vans in the middle so the plows could remove the snow in front of the dumpsters. The DPW was called to remove the snow in the middle after the vans were removed and in front of the fire hydrant and sheds. We were put on a list for snow removal. They were called a second time (they thought we’d already been done a second time) and were also asked to make the entrance wider. We generally have new drivers every year so it takes a bit of time for them to know what we need.
* Roof was repaired. There was no leaking after a subsequent storm.
* The new chairs are not good for exercise. We are using the folding brown chairs for exercises but there are not enough of them so I ordered another 6 chairs (unable to match the colors due to the age of our original chairs).

**BESG Update** (Bill Eltzroth-President)**:**

* 1/25 Birthday Party features meatloaf from Mickey G
* 2/13 Valentine’s Party with soup and sandwiches
* 2/29 Birthday Party features Shepard’s pie
* 3/13 Police department is sponsoring Corned Beef & Cabbage luncheon for St. Patrick’s Day at the Coachmen’s at 11:30 for 200 participants. Susan McLeod is the entertainment
* Chairs and tables look awesome. Thank you to everyone who helped assemble the chairs and tables. We thought they’d arrive assembled. Everyone pitched in-even the town carpenter.
* New Year’s Eve Party was fantastic-sat in our own chairs and tables-felt just like home. Over 80 people attended
* 12/12/24 will be next year’s Christmas Party. Susan is already booked.
* May will be Armed Forces Day with a free meal for all veterans

**Other Business /Public Segment**

Dave Dunbar: What are the BESG trips for this year? Bill: March will be a 3-hour trip to Connecticut to a chocolate factory where we will make our own candy. Awaiting pricing.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 on a motion by Tina Arsenault, seconded by Tsune Roberts with unanimous approval by the board. Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Griffin-secretary