

Preston Senior Affairs Committee

The January 5, 2021 "Call In" teleconference meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. by Chairman Elizabeth Bassette. Members in attendance included Elizabeth Bassette, Mary Lou Jensen, Marie Perrin, Morris Fishbone and Frances Minor. Guest: Kim Lang.

The following information was read by F. Minor. "Per Lamont's Executive Order 7b: Participants are reminded to state your name and title before speaking. Please help us make this conference call as useful as possible by keeping your phone on mute when not speaking. We are keeping the line open to all participants by default, but if background noise becomes a problem, we will mute all participants and ask participants to use "chat" to be selectively unmuted."

Minutes: M. Fishbone made a motion to accept the November 3, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by M. Perrin. Motion approved.

Correspondence:

- a. Reappointment request to Board of Selectmen
- b. Preston Town Clerk re: Request for annual meeting schedule.
- c. Preston Town Clerk re: 2021 meeting schedule for Preston Senior Affairs Committee
- d. All members were reappointed by the Preston Board of Selectmen at their December 10, 2020 meeting.
- e.

Financial report:

F. Minor provided a review of recent expenditures. Under discussion was the recent repairs that were completed on the kitchen sink, which separated from its base. Water leakage occurred and allowed pooling in the base cabinet. Budget expenditures are bare minimum including utilities and two staff persons on payroll. The new financial system which was implemented by the town has lumped together several line items into one. F. Minor indicated that our next Fiscal Budget request will require due diligence to the changes. M.L. Jensen questioned whether in light of the kitchen water damage; if we should replace the kitchen cabinets. She indicated that we have ample funds in the budget to undertake such a project. F. Minor stated that it would be worthy of the continuation of a lengthy discussion at a later date. M.L. Jensen made a motion to accept the Financial report. M. Fishbone seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Old Business:

a. Flu Clinic (brochure) no activity at high school due to COVID-19 pandemic. F. Minor stated that she would make contact again during the month of May in hopes that our brochure can be completed.

New Business/Other:

a. Election of Officers: M. Fishbone made a motion to appoint the current Chairman and Secretary to an additional term of office. M.L. Jensen seconded the motion. Motion approved. M.L. Jensen congratulated the two individuals for accepting the positions.

b. Financial Budget discussion: F. Minor provided a lengthy discussion on the current changes to our Fiscal Budget. She indicated that the bottom line of \$73,099.00 has not changed but that several line items have been combined. The Board of Selectmen have not issued guidance as to the upcoming budget process. The information will be forwarded to the Committee as soon as it becomes available.

c. Grant opportunities: F. Minor indicated that she will be applying for a State grant in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the Preston Senior Center. The CARES Act. Funding will be used to increase safety measures at the center. The grant is reimbursable for purchases made from March 1, 2020 thru March 31, 2021. F. Minor indicated that her application includes the addition of touchless faucets, hands free soap dispensers, hand sanitizers, masks, canopy, patio heater, internet installation and one month's service fee in addition to other smaller purchases. F. Minor indicated one of her primary goals in applying for this grant was the continuation of drive-thru programs such as the food distribution. Last month we provided 141 bags of food which helped 468 individuals. Valuable service, super volunteers including First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn Gauthier and Leigh Pappas along with UCFS staff.

d. Internet installation at the senior center: F. Minor indicated that on January 6th, Comcast would be installing internet service at the center. Arrangements for this project were orchestrated through the Selectmen's Office. A contract has been signed and there will be a monthly charge of \$123.39 and a one-time installation fee of \$99.95. M. Fishbone queried as to why this was happening now. F. Minor indicated that it's being done in anticipation of our reopening and providing the seniors with a way to utilize our internet capabilities.

e. COVID-19 vaccine: F. Minor has contact Walgreens Pharmacy to gather information on if/when we will be given information on the possibilities of having a drive-thru COVID-19 vaccine clinic. Information is slow coming to the pharmacy and they have no information

whether drive-thru clinics will be allowed. The pharmacist indicated that we will be kept informed as to any directives from their corporate office.

Other: F. Minor thanked Kim Lang for setting up the conference call for today's meeting.

Also, addressed in today's meeting was the acknowledgement by each committee member that they have been sworn in prior to the start of today's meeting.

M. Fishbone questioned whether any of the members had access to Zoom? He indicated that it's a much nicer process than utilizing the call-in system as you can visually see the other attendees at the meeting. K. Lang indicated that it's a great system as you can feel connected to individuals. She indicated that it's possible to join into the Zoom service prior to the start of an official meeting and chat with your acquaintances. She indicated that on other boards, they utilize the Zoom system and are quite pleased with the results. M. Perrin ask if everyone had the capability of participating in a Zoom meeting? Two members indicated that they were unable to participate.

M. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 p.m. M.L. Jensen seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frances Minor