

Preston Senior Affairs Committee

The May 4, 2021 Preston Senior Affairs Committee meeting was called to order by Chairman Elizabeth Bassette at 1:04 p.m. Members in attendance included Elizabeth Bassette, Marie Perrin, Morris Fishbone and Frances Minor. Mary Lou Jensen arrived at 1:17 p.m.

F. Minor read the following information: 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. Perrin made a motion to accept the April 6, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. M. Fishbone seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Correspondence:

a. State Unit on Aging: F. Minor shared correspondence from Commissioner Amy Porter in which congratulations were extended for the successful completion of the State Unit on Aging CARES Act Fund Grant reimbursement application.

b. Email from Sue Nysten: Shared information regarding the receipt of the CARES Act Fund Grant allocation in the amount of \$2,500.00.

c. Bd. of Selectmen's Office re: Code of Ethics training. M. Perrin will return the required document to the Preston Town Clerks Office tomorrow. All other committee members have completed the training and their signature cards have been placed on file in the Preston Town Clerk's office.

(M.L. Jensen arrived at 1:17 p.m.)

Financial Report: F. Minor provided the committee with a lengthy explanation of our current expenditures. A comparison between the old format and format currently utilized were discussed at length. The hardships faced due to the COVID-19 pandemic were discussed. Unfortunately, the programs which generate the greatest utilization were forced to close, transportation requests withered, staffing needs vanished and we were left with minimal facility operations all of which resulted in a significant unspent budget. First Selectwoman Sandra Allyn-Gauthier requested, from each department, a projection of the funds which will be returned at the end of the fiscal year. F. Minor indicated that approximately \$12,000.00

would be returned. Discussion ensued. M. Fishbone suggested that the projected figure was too high as we continue to have operating expenses which we are responsible for such as heating oil, electricity, telephone, etc. M.L. Jensen suggested that we communicate to the Board of Selectmen/Board of Finance that underutilization of our fiscal budget is primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, forced closures by the State of Connecticut and insecurities among the community in which we serve. F. Minor indicated that she will forward information to the Board of Selectmen regarding the concerns of this committee. In light of the underutilization of funds, a discussion surfaced with regard to our future budgets being penalized for underspending. A motion was made by M. L. Jensen to accept the Financial Report. Motion seconded by M. Perrin. Motion approved.

Old Business:

a. Fiscal Budget: to date there has been no correspondence received from the Board Of Selectmen regarding our budget request.

b. Grant Opportunities: This topic will be removed from future agendas as the State Unite on Aging CARES Act Fund Grant has been completed. M. Fishbone questioned whether there are more grant opportunities which we should be investigating?

c. Senior Center repairs: F. Minor indicated that the town crew removed the Wainscotting and found no water damage to the building. Replacement plywood was installed, stained and finishing touches will be completed in the future. The town crew did an outstanding job.

New Business/Other:

a. BBQ & Bingo. F. Minor updated the committee on the co-sponsored event between The Parks & Rec. Department and this committee. Entertainment will be absorbed by the P&R and Youth Services budgets. Uncas Health District will be doing inspections, Ct. Water Authority will be inspecting our well water, signage will be posted regarding COVID-19 requirements and all food must be prepared on the premises. The event will be held outside with social distancing and COVID-19 precautions in place.

b. M. Perring questioned whether a storage building was investigated. F. Minor Indicated that it had not. The two trash enclosures, located outside of the center, offered another alternative. One enclosure has been converted into storage of folding tables, chairs, patio heater hood and propane. There is no evidence of water leakage and two paddle locks secure the structure.

Public Comment: None.

A motion was made by M. Fishbone to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. Motion seconded by M.L. Jensen. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frances Minor