

HINSDALE/ PERU COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2024

The meeting began at 5:40 PM in the community room at the town hall.

Present: Cathy Spinney, Janet Verge, Jill Cole, Marion Tinney, Margi Roussin, and Jennifer Stark

Absent: Linda Schermerhorn, Joanne Larmon and Eve Gripaldi

Guest: Jim Alden who is interested in becoming a member of the COA board.

SECRETARY'S REPORT – Jill made a motion to accept the December 4, 2023, minutes. Janet seconded the motion and the December 4, 2023, secretary's report was approved by all present members.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Jennifer handed out a current copy of our account expenditures, deposits, and balances. She reported that she expects to receive the other half of our state grant sometime this month. All accounts appear to be stable at this time. Marion made a motion to accept the January 8, 2024, report and Cathy seconded it and approved by all present.

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter – Margi brought copies of the next newsletter with what she has been working on so far for all to look over. She said that Zip and Sort, our previous mailing company, said that the Berkshire Eagle would be a good match for our mailings since Zip and Sort is going out of business at the end of the month. Margi will call Zip and Sort to have them supply the mailing addresses of all Hinsdale/Peru senior citizens who receive a copy. Currently there are 556 total with 159 of them from Peru. Jennifer explained that she divides the total cost for mailing by the number of copies made to find out cost per newsletter and uses that figure to calculate how much to charge Peru.

Thoughts about the Christmas party – The consensus was that everything went well, from the table decorations, music (thank you Dick Roussin), team work, and serving the delicious Ozzie's turkey dinner.

Festival of Trees – Was well attended. We had just enough cocoa and cookies for the two sessions. Possibly ask Hinsdale Days to donate more cookies next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Luncheons and speakers –

January 11 – Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy, carrots.

The speaker is Mae, our Hinsdale librarian.

February 15 – Mac and Cheese, ham, and carrots

The speakers are Jane Winn and Bethany Ebeling from Berkshire Environmental Action Team (BEAT) from Pittsfield. The topic is “Protecting the Environment in the Berkshires.”

March 14 – Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, applesauce, and carrots.

The speaker is Dawn Collins from Berkshire Wildlife. The topic is “What she does for Animals.”

Trips and Events for 2024 –

Cathy had information from MacHady Theater about their upcoming shows. Usually, their tickets include a dinner at a nearby restaurant and a show. More research needs to be done regarding buses.

These are upcoming trips organized by Hilltown Travelers:

March 11 – Celtic Angels – Connecticut

May – Menopause – Proctors

June – Strawberry Festival - Holyoke

July – Lake George

September – 911 – New York City

Adjournment Janet made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Cathy and the meeting adjourned at 6:30. Submitted by Marion Tinney

