

Preston Senior Affairs Committee

The January 4, 2022 Preston Senior Affairs Committee teleconference meeting was called to order by Chairman Elizabeth Bassette at 1:01 p.m. Members in attendance included Elizabeth Bassette, Mary Lou Jensen, Marie Perrin, Morris Fishbone and Frances Minor.

Minutes: M. Perrin made a motion to accept the December 7, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by M. Fishbone. Motion approved.

Correspondence: None at this time.

Financial Report: F. Minor provided the committee with an extensive review of past and future expenditures. The senior bus has had extensive rear brake work completed. Brake lines were replaced, spare tire replaced, heater plug replaced and an overall safety check completed on the vehicle. The bus is a year 2006, 16 passenger vehicle that is old, tired and needs replacement. Both vans are routinely given oil, filter changes every 3,000 miles. With an aging fleet, it's only natural to expect wear and increased maintenance concerns. Consideration must be given to increasing the vehicle maintenance line-item projection for the next Fiscal Budget. Telecommunication is at a deficit now and that will continue to increase throughout this year. Johnson Control (service provider for our alarm systems) completed a visual inspection of our system today. The two batteries operating the system are both six years old and reached their life expectancy and require changing. No estimate was provided by the technician today. The batteries are essential to keep the system functioning and have been placed on order. One positive thing in this otherwise gloomy financial report is that we actually have an expenditure for a driver! F. Minor has requested that the 2006 Ford bus be replaced and it is her understanding that research is ongoing regarding pursuing a state grant to replace said vehicle. All other line items appear to be within normal projections. A motion to accept the Financial Report was made by M. Perrin. Motion seconded by ML Jensen. Motion approved.

Old Business:

- a. Annual Flu & Pneumonia Clinic: Tabled.
- b. Turkey Drive: F. Minor reported that 120 turkeys were distributed before the

Christmas holiday. Preston residents were given priority during the first hour of the distribution followed by opening up the program to anyone from surrounding towns. Many residents took advantage of the free giveaway. The program was coordinated by the Preston Resident

Trooper, Preston Parks & Recreation, Preston Youth Services and the Preston Senior Affairs Committee. Inquiries are underway to be included in the states Thanksgiving turkey distribution for the upcoming holiday. Considering the short turnaround notice that we were provided with and harried attempt to get announcements out to the residents, we did very well.

c. Expanded Senior Center hours update. The Monday games day at the center, following the Café Luncheon Program, appear to be progressing nicely. Participation varies but all seem to be delighted with the time and location.

New Business/Other:

a. Uncas Health District inspection. On Monday, December 27th we were inspected by Marguerita again. Past reported concerns were reviewed and addressed. The food time/temperature issues were referred back to TVCCA to resolve. A new process will be implemented by TVCCA to record time and temperature of cooked items prior to them leaving the Bozrah Commissary. Upon arrival of the food at the senior center, we will again log the time and temperature of each food item transported. At serving time, we will again record this information and include it on our monthly report to TVCCA. The major change for both parties is that we record the time in which the temperatures are taken. We have always recorded the temperature of the food but never the time in which we take it. The concern is the amount of time in transport and whether the food is in the safety zone. Both Cathy Brosnan and Fran Minor are SafeServe Certified. Only one certified individual is necessary to meet compliance but having a back-up is exceptionally nice. The cold items, such as dairy, fruit cups, etc. are only temped upon arrival at the center, as seals must be broken on quarts of milk to correctly record the temperatures. The process continues to transport dirty dishes, trays, coffee urns, utensils back to TVCCA for washing and sanitizing. That process must continue until such time as we have a three bay sink and separate hand washing sink installed at the center. The kitchen sink is only permitted to be used for handwashing. No other liquids must go down the drain. Coffee, milk, juice from vegetables must be flushed down the toilet. We take great care not to put any coffee grounds, gravy, etc. down into our septic system. ML. Jensen question the amount of time which it takes to transport the food from Bozrah and whether we had a proper oven to heat the food in. F. Minor provided a very lengthy, detailed description of the process from start to finish. ML. Jensen questioned how many people were involved in this process. We have Cathy Brosnan as site server, Maureen Domina as assistant and Lenny Domina as a volunteer in addition to F. Minor. The capacity of the centers large meeting room is 40 individuals but we never exceed 25 as it becomes too congested and uncomfortable for the participants. F. Minor indicated that she has contacted DeLia's Plumbing for an estimate to

install a three bay sink plus hand washing sink. To date, we have no response. M. Fishbone suggested a timeline in which we would seek estimates from other plumbers if Mr. DeLia does not indicate interest in the project. The estimates are necessary if we plan to make a request to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance for these improvements. The Congregate Café is well attended and an asset to the community.

b. Election of Officers- Chairman, Secretary” M. Fishbone made a motion to nominate ML. Jensen as Chairman. M. Perrin seconded the motion. Nominations closed and vote taken to unanimously elect MaryLou Jensen as Chairman. ML. Jensen motioned to nominate F. Minor as secretary. Motion seconded by M. Perrin. Nominations closed and vote taken, M. Fishbone, E. Bassette, ML. Jensen and M. Perrin voted in favor. F. Minor abstained. Motion passed.

At this time, F. Minor thanked E. Bassette (Betty) for her dedication and service to the community. Betty has lead this committee by example and volunteered to support the Annual Flu Clinic, and single handedly run the Blood Pressure Clinic at Lincoln Park Housing for many years just to mention a few of her accomplishments. Betty has taken the helm on difficult tasks before the committee and has always held the senior citizens needs as a priority. Discussion and accolades continued from all members of the committee. M. Fishbone led the group in a “Three Cheers for Betty Bassette” recognition. Plus many individual thank you praises were aired. Congratulations were express to MaryLou Jensen our next Chairman.

c. Fiscal Budget Discussion: There has been no formal notification for the need to submit a request for the upcoming Fiscal Budget. February is commonly known as budget time. F. Minor will keep members informed as to when we need to schedule a workshop.

d. ML. Jensen questioned when we would need to schedule a time to meet with the Town Clerk to be sworn in. F. Minor indicated that E. Bassette, M. Fishbone and she were sworn in. M. Perrin indicated that she completed the process as well. ML. Jensen stated that she will complete the process next week.

Public Comment: No public present.

ML. Jensen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:47 p.m. Motion seconded by M. Fishbone. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted by,

Frances Minor