

Ware COA Meeting Minutes June 2023

Attendance: I. Eskett, C.Haigh, J.Zienowicz, G.Ziglar-Thomas, SK Robinson, Walter Lahair Sr.
Meeting called to order by I. Eskett at 9:07 AM. All in favor.

New Business: We will continue to work on the Guestbook at the next meeting. I. Eskett suggested we add an emergency page to the booklet.

We have hired an Activities Coordinator for The Ware Senior Center. Mr. Michael Sweeney will start shortly. His duties will consist of: organizing volunteers, planning activities and trips for the seniors. Finding out what activities the seniors would like to add at the senior center.

Formula Grant: The new Governor of Massachusetts proposed raising the \$12.00 per senior in each town that we get from the FY24 formula grant to \$14.00 per senior. The money will be adjusted for senior population when the 2020 Census becomes available if needed.

We were notified by Frank Robinson, Bay State Health, about a grant opportunity through the EOEI for all COA's to focus on Digital Literacy for Seniors. We partnered with the Hardwick/Barre, and Warren to submit an application to bring broadband and digital literacy to these towns.

The grant offers up to \$100,000 per COA to bring broadband, equipment and training to the towns without it. We will use the E2E building on Main Street in Ware to hold classes and Peter Morales, professor and head of cyber security at Country Bank has volunteered to teach the classes for us.

Seniors who receive the monthly newsletter by mail, were informed the postal rate charged will be what the going Postal rate is.

Lunch program: Received \$1,279.75
Meal cost \$1,529.65
Profit/loss \$249.90
Total served 483

Van Services: QC total 60+ 240
Total rides 1136

Janine our Social Services Coordinator is full time now, after completing her Masters in Social Work degree. COA is very proud of you and the great job you are doing at the Ware Senior Center.

J. Zienowicz motioned to accept the April minutes.
C.Haigh seconded. All in favor.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:03AM by I. Eskett. J. Zienowicz seconded. All in favor.
Next meeting: July 18th 2023 9:00AM
Recorded by Cheryl Haigh, Secretary.