

MINUTES OF MEETING OF NEW MARLBOROUGH COUNCIL ON AGING
AUGUST 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Prue Spaulding at 1:35pm following the summer luncheon at the Southfield Church. Attending were Prue Spaulding, Joan Hotaling, Jane Beers and Merry Abolafia.

All agreed that the food was good and that the amount of food was sufficient. The attending senior's commentary was favorable. The luncheon went smoothly and cleanup went quickly and efficiently.

Prue distributed a list of the activities that the COA had accomplished during 2022-2023. A copy of this list is attached for reference.

Discussion was had about the October luncheon menu and it was decided that a pizza party was a good idea. Prue suggested that we get the food from the Stateline restaurant in Canaan. She said that they had good food at reasonable prices. Desert would be ice cream cups and coffee would be included.

The speakers at the luncheon were Barbara Marchione, chairman on the town hall building Committee with an update on the New Marlborough town hall and Jill Sweet from Southern Berkshire Public Health with a reminder about the medical services that are available at town hall. Mrs. Sweet also told of the annual flu-clinic to be held on October 16th at the New Marlborough Fire House from 11:00 to 1:00 and at the New Marlborough School from 3:00 to 5:00;

Prue suggested a possible field trip to Goshen and said that she would get more information and survey interest from the seniors.

Prue led a discussion relating to the use of the hall at Southfield Church by commencing a women's movement for fund raising and labor so that the hall could serve as a community center for New Marlborough. We talked about what would be involved and what the initial cost to make the hall usable for groups from the community. Suggestions were made as to how to get things started including posters showing how receipts were progressing. The COA asked David Hastings to get a list of necessary renovations including but not limited to heating etc, and the costs of same. Goals would need to be set and people found to work on a campaign. Joan Hotaling suggested that we find out what it would cost to bring the kitchen up to code as it was felt that this would be necessary to make the hall available to all. Prue brought up the possibility of rental to cover operating costs and said that she would check on whether the grant that our town receives from the state could provide a rental fee for the COA to use the hall on a regular basis.

Joan Hotaling made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Merry Abolafia and carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

MERRY ABOLAFIA.