**Wayne Aging at Home**

Committee Meeting Minutes September 7, 2022

Location: Wayne Community Church

**Members present:**

Stan Davis, Jane Davis, Pam Chenea, Stephanie Merrill, Patricia Ender, Deborah Emery,

**The new Aging at Home Center:**

The Morrill family helped greatly with the heavy furniture on moving-in day. Pam sent them a thank-you in the form of a gift certificate to the General Store. Donations and some yard-sale finds met the immediate needs for furniture and an air cleaner. Art work was also donated. The town purchased a laptop and printer for Pam’s office. A new email address has been set up – aahcoordinator@gmail.com. At the moment Pam is using her own cell phone, but the reception is uneven. The space looks great with new paint, thanks to Connie Irland and other volunteers.

Tai Chi has met both outdoors and inside. Currently meeting each week are a knitting and needlework group, a walking group, and a bridge group. One visitor called the ability to socialize with others a “lifesaver”. Stan will be helping people with their electronic devices, by appointment on specific days.

After seeing a number of widows and widowers come to the center, Pam is thinking of starting a support group. Deborah suggested that it be called “Learning To Live Alone”, so as to include those whose partner may be suffering from dementia, or may have moved to an assisted living facility. Pam has in mind someone who could lead such a group. The Select Board would need to approve a stipend. We currently have over $4000 available. Future activities could include rotating exhibits of local art, game nights, a cribbage tournament, a large wall-mounted crossword puzzle, and an ongoing jigsaw puzzle. Pam could also offer to help people schedule their Covid boosters at local pharmacies.

**Opening Celebration Sept. 10:**

Refreshments will be served and Stephanie will provide music in the form of “oldies” that she will stream. Pam will provide visitors with AAH logos, open hours, and other information of interest, including application forms for the new property tax stabilization for elders. She will also ask visitors for their ideas about programs or activities that they would like to see happen.

**Holiday Stroll:**

Discussion was held on how AAH could be a presence at the Wayne Holiday Stroll on the first weekend in December. It was decided to purchase sturdy paper shopping bags and affix the AAH logo to them. They can then be provided to shoppers at convenient locations throughout the stroll. Shoppers will have something in which to carry their purchases, while the AAH name will be promoted, to increase our visibility.

**Next meeting:**

Monday, October 17 at 4pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Davis, Secretary