

**WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE**  
Minutes – March 20, 2019

Present: Marge Ackerman, Laura Efron, Vida Goldstein, Leila Hewitt, John McCahan, Ireta Metchik, Prather Palmer, Phyllis Ritvo.

Absent: Mignonne Murray, Shirley Small-Rougeau.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 am.

1. The minutes of January 16<sup>th</sup> were approved as written.

2a. **Personal Finance Group.** Phyllis reported on the meeting of March 14<sup>th</sup> (meeting notes appended below). Ireta reinforced a “buyer be aware” approach to the various facilities that are being visited. The committee suggested the circulation of more information to the participants about the sites. Susan Wagner had written a comprehensive list of questions that are relevant to these visits.

It was noted that the presentation by the Joyce Funeral Home had been taped.

Fifteen people attended the presentation introduced by Katherine Clark. The open forum on the new tax laws went well.

Sixteen people have signed up for the “On the Market, Almost” program later today.

In discussion of the program on low cost burials, there was concern that the program meet the needs of ethnic groups that have more recently moved into town. How various groups approach death could be a program topic on its own. Prather will contact the hospital ethics committee chair to explore the development of such a program.

Amy Roberts of “Out of the Box” will be presenting a program on decluttering on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

The “financial aspects of moving” is being considered for a program topic next fall.

A program on hospital discharge planning, also being considered for the fall, could possibly be presented more effectively as a case history, or series of case histories, in the newsletter.

2b. **Continuing the conversation.** Ireta and John noted that there was only one participant for the most recent discussion. The April date will be kept, but further sessions will be suspended until the fall.

3b. **Intergenerational Programs.** Intergenerational programs had not been discussed for some time particularly since the high school intergenerational group was not currently active. Leila distributed a listing of current programs (attached as pdf file). She also noted that a change in the school schedule has made it difficult to schedule joint programs, and that the COA provides internship slots to high school students. In addition, more ties have been developed with Regis College. The COA has also provided community service opportunities for students identified by the Police Department.

**The next meeting was set for Wednesday May 1, 2019 at 8:30 am**

The committee adjourned at 9:40 am.

Submitted by John McCahan

## Notes from Personal Finance Group meeting

March 14, 2019

Update: the next meeting is May 2nd, not the 4th. Susan is working to keep me straight and out of the "home."

On Mar 16, 2019, at 1:49 PM, phyllis Ritvo <[phyllisritvo@gmail.com](mailto:phyllisritvo@gmail.com)> wrote:

Thanks to all who attended.

### Past Programs:

First of tours of local alternate housing options was to Maplewood in Weston that has independent and assisted living apartments. Ireta was with us and provided us with a form to help us ask useful questions and warned up to always be skeptical. (I think it might be a good idea to have someone on each trip write up his/her general views of it???)

James Heald of Joyce Funeral Home in Waltham gave a presentation of funeral home services and a range of expenses. There were at least 20 in the audience (most of whom I had never seen before! Interesting.)

Last Friday our state representative, Katherine Clark, and someone from the IRS gave a presentation of new tax laws and other information. (I did not go so do not know the specifics and if it was well attended.)

### Future Programs:

Housing tours: Waterstones in Wellesley on 4/9 with Carriage House in Wayland on 5/14. Sunrise in Weston and others are being planned..

Financial Empowerment for Seniors (or different title involving translating one's money values): two local women run Levatus, a financial planning organization, and with the help of Mignonne and Leila will structure a program on 4/24.

Leila will check with a nonprofit organization involving low-cost burials. Prather also mentioned the Cremation Society for low-cost burials.

Program on 3/20 titled "On the Market, Almost," which involves preparing one's home before moving. Presentations by real estate agents Liz Hochberg and Leslie Fligor, lucky us they are both on our Board. A later and related program in April (I do not know the date) is about decluttering given either by "Out of the Box" moves or by Marie of Transitions. Indefinite: someone (maybe Henry Tiedemann) to do a financial program in May about analyzing the financial aspects of moving. Should I call him?

We decided not to do any programs over the summer, but in late September Michelle, our social worker, will give a talk on what the Shine program provides, specifically in relation to medical expenses. She and Ireta may also do a program involving discharge planning. Leila will talk to them about this.

What did I forget? Please let me know.

Next Meeting will be on 5/4 at 10.