

FEB 09 REC'D

Time: _____
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Blackstone Council on Aging Meeting - January 8, 2025

Meeting Called to Order: 10:05 am by Jay DiLibero, Chairperson

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Jay DiLibero, Carolyn Sullivan, Chris Prymak, Julie Wingate, Director Tiziana Milano, Roberta Barrett

Guest: Linda McGilvfay

Good And Welfare for the Public: None

Minutes: Julie Wingate moved to accept December minutes, seconded by Chris Prymak

Directors Report:

Activities / Nutrition

December was a whirlwind of Holiday activities and events.

Trips included:

- Travel Breakfast to Miss Mendon Diner in December and yesterday our Seniors visited Cracker Barrel for their monthly travel breakfast.
- Sturbridge by Candlelight (on probably the coldest day in December but everyone had a great time).

Events included:

- Our Annual Holiday Party which was held at Galliford's Tavern and Restuarant in Mendon.
- Our Monthly birthday bash consisted of an amazing ham dinner with all the fixings and dessert. This was generously donated and served by Goodstuff Smokehouse. They surely do know how to put on a spread! Entertainment included the beautiful music of the Blackstone Valley Community Concert Bad Flute Choir.
- Other low-key holiday inspired events included an all-day Christmas movie marathon and a Pajama Party!

Upcoming events include:

- This month we brought back our famous Mystery Lunch, Hint: Siamese if you please.
- As in last year, we will be visiting the Worcester Art Museum on January 28th, the cost is \$17 for Seniors but free for EBT members.

- In March we have partnered with Best of Times Travel for “Andy Cooney’s Irish Celebration”, the cost for this trip which includes musical, comedic and dance entertainment is \$99. It is a drive on your own event, but we will have a bus available as well.

Lunch Program:

- We launched our new partnership with Tri-Valley Congregate Lunch Program. Our first meal included a baked potato bar which went over very well. Suggested donations for a Tri-Valley meal is \$3 for seniors. If you are not a Senior and would like to enjoy their lunch the fee is \$6.
- In January Tri-Valley will be supplying our congregate lunches every Tuesday, be sure to check out the newsletter for menu.
- Upcoming guest speakers for our Soup to Nuts this month will be our one and only Jay at noon. Assessor Board Chair, Bob Kluchevitz will be joining us on the 15th and lastly Selectboard chair Dan Keefe will be with us on the 22nd.

Miscellaneous:

- The Travel Committee will meet on the last Friday of each month at 11am. Please come and give your suggestions as to places to visit or trips to take.
- The walking group is now at 11am on Tuesdays and Fridays during the colder months.

Outreach:

Our new outreach employee, Donna is settling in very well. She is available for any questions or help if needed with Fuel Assistance and SNAP benefits as well as other things our Senior residents need help with.

Transportation:

Transportation report for the end of 2025 we saw about a 5% decrease however we also did have over 315 cancellations. Total trips provided for medical appointments were 2809 and total non-medical trips were 3149. A total of 5958 trips were provided to our seniors and disabled residents in 2025.

Report from Senior Center Director:

The Property Tax Work Off program is finally starting up again. Applications are available for those that are interested. If you anyone is interested, they can email me (tmilano@townofblackstone.org) their name, address and phone number and a packet will be mailed out.

We have ended the year with a department fully staffed. Donna our outreach coordinator, is available for any questions or assistance that may be needed.

Don't forget we celebrate our January birthdays on the 20th with lunch at noon of lasagna and meatballs (\$3 suggested donation) and entertainment by Matt York at 1pm. You do need to sign up by the 13th, space is limited.

The Friends of the Blackstone Senior Center group generously contributed to our Holiday party which reduced the per person cost of this event and they also paid for our entertainment, we thank them greatly.

Best of Times trips, Andy Cooney in Danvers, deadline to sign up for this fun Irish Event is February 12th, event is on March 10, Tuesday. Future trips include a 3 day trip to Pennsylvania Dutch and the Tall Ships trip in Boston. Information about the Penn Dutch trip is in our January Newsletter, Tall Ships info will be in the February/March newsletter.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Friends Group Update: Slow through holiday and end of year

Good and Welfare for the Board: None

Next Meeting: February 5, 2026

Motion to Adjourn: Julie Wingate moved, seconded by Chris Prymak

Respectfully submitted,

Jay DiLibero

Jay DiLibero, Chairperson