Senior College of Belfast Board Meeting
October 13, 2021   (via Zoom)

Call to Order: President Nancy Perkins called the meeting to order at 9:33 AM.
        Present: Nancy Perkins, Beth Sterner, Al Arthur, Jim Owen, Rebecca Jessup, Martha Laitin, Bob Adler, Mayo Bulloch, Doug Chamberlin, Brian Richardson, Marjorie Arnett.
Absent: Brenda Smith, Deirdre Good, Richard Koralek,

Approval of Minutes:
1.   Meeting of Sept 8. Mayo asked that the spelling of her last name be corrected. There were no other changes.
2. The minutes of the Annual Meeting will be approved at the next Annual Meeting.
3. Meeting of special meeting on Sept 8, to re-elect the Executive Committee, minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Brenda Smith being absent, this was deferred.

Committee Reports:

Curriculum Committee: Deirdre Good was absent. Nancy Perkins, as a member of the CC, reported that they are discussing whether to offer live classes as well as Zoom class for Winterim. There will most likely be some of each, with live classes in Hutchinson. UME requires vaccinations, with masks in open spaces. Because of masks, we won't offer refreshments but people can bring their own. The verification of vaccination is difficult, as Hutchinson is not doing that. UME requires that you sign in and put in your vaccination records. However, Martha recently took a class at Hutchinson and there was no vaccination requirement or checking for that class.

We have only a few classes for Winterim so far. Neal Harkness is planning to do a one-day course about holiday music over the last century. Zoom classes should be good for Winterim session due to weather.

There was more discussion of proposed and pending courses, including a course by Bob Rackmales to be offered jointly by us and Coastal SC (Camden/Rockland area). This may be a first, two SCs presenting together. Finally it was suggested that this discussion involving Curriculum issues be moved to the Curriculum Committee.

Report on Grant to Waldo County CAP: Beth Sterner introduced Donna Kelly, Executive Director of WaldoCountyCAP. Donna outlined steps taken in preparation of expenditure of grant dollars. A needs assessment was conducted along with preliminary planning and discussion with service partners (Libraries, YMCA, Aging Well in Waldo County, Waterfall Arts). These discussions involved logistics of program delivery to address isolation and lack of digital access and skills. Unfortunately the agency was terribly short of staff so no dollars have as yet been expended. Donna has recently hired staff to further develop and facilitate the program. Working with the Maine Digital Equity Center the plan is to present a 12 week pilot with community partners designed to expand access to seniors and reduce barriers to technology and improve skills.

A discussion followed with Bob Adler complimenting the agency for not reinventing the wheel but working with other agencies. The issue of broadband access was addressed by Doug Chamberlin who applauded the work of preparing Seniors to prepare for future access which will be coming. He encouraged all to let Belfast City Council know how we support the effort that is underway. Donna was thanked for her presentation and Nancy stated that we look forward to future updates.

Nominating Committee: Jim Owen reported that the nominating process would begin earlier this year and the first step is the selection of individuals to serve on the Committee which is made up of Board officers and 3 "civilians."

New Business: Beth Sterner the chair of the newly formed Publicity/Marketing Committee reported that with a few individuals and the help of the accomplished Mickey Sirota doing press releases the Committee will look at traditional outlets (newspapers, Chamber, Our Town Belfast) as well as creation of a Facebook page for Senior College. There had been resistance to this for it seemed too difficult to manage. Mayo Bulloch said that once it is up it is simple to administer.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Jessup,
Secretary