



Regular meeting minutes of the
Council on Aging Board

Date: 2/14/2018

Place: Senior Center

Room: B07

75 Groton Road, No. Chelmsford, MA 01824

Opening: Chair Len Olenchak called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present: Nickie Bischoff, Fred Brusseau, Alan Fidler (by phone), Steve Flynn, Bob Hamilton (by phone), Louise Myers, Len Olenchak, Debra Siriani, Annie Smith, and Dianne Sperry.

Members absent: Paul Der Ananian, Ruth l'Anson, Jerelyn Serra, Terese Viega

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairs. Replacement chairs have been selected and will be ordered as soon as the material swatch has been received and approved.

Electronic Sign. Jerelyn Serra, Len Olenchak, and Fred Brusseau continue to work on this project. Len is focused on the application process, Fred is focused on the applicable bylaws, and Jerelyn is working with vendors to define the specs and obtain quotes. They will meet to consolidate their efforts and address some legalities (e.g., who pays for the application fee; who represents us before the zoning board) in the near future.

Perspective Document. Fred Brusseau has created a draft of the Perspective document that he will distribute to board members before the next meeting. It will be reviewed and discussed at the next meeting.

Fence Around Dumpster. Per Debi Siriani, this is scheduled to be done in the spring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee. The Finance Committee, chaired by Alan Fidler, has developed a meeting and planning template that can be used by all committees and sub-committees to provide timely input to the budget planning process. A draft of this template is being distributed to all board members and will be discussed at March's meeting.

Legislative Committee. Louise Myers reports that Capitol Hill is considering two big wins for older Americans: (1) Restored coverage of PT, OT, and ST in Medicare and (2) improved benefits in Part D coverage. Both matters face more scrutiny in upcoming budget sessions.

Locally, AARP has designated Massachusetts as one of only two age-friendly states. Governor Baker continues to pledge his support for senior citizens and plans to raise financial support for elder services in FY'19.

Conflict of Interest Training. Deadline for this training is Tuesday, April 3. If you have any questions, contact April Hunt in the office.

Budget. Town Manager Paul Cohen is supporting the Center's requests for supplemental funds to cover the cost of the full-time driver's PTO; to create an assistant director's position; and to transfer money to balance the budget for monies spent on covering the full-time driver's absence last year.

Grant funding was cut about \$1500 for this year, but the remaining funding covers the budget items paid out of this source.

NEW BUSINESS

- Chowderfest was another success, with attendance up from last year.
- A proposal is being considered to hire professionals to assess and make recommendations to improve the bathrooms at the Center. Such a survey would be very costly.
- Debi Siriani has invited an AARP rep to meet with the board to discuss the age-friendly initiative. This meeting will take place on **April 25** at 10:00 a.m.
- Len Olenchak is gathering information on a retractable awning for the patio off the Friends Café.
- A senior from Westford Academy has approached Debbie about doing his internship at the Chelmsford Senior Center. He would be here 20-30 hours a week for six weeks and is interested in marketing.

NEXT MEETING: WED., MAR. 14, 9:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Ruth I'Anson, Recording Secretary