



**Regular meeting minutes of the  
Council on Aging Board**

**Date: 4/10/2019**

**Place: Senior Center**

**Room: B07**

**75 Groton Road, No. Chelmsford, MA 01824**

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TOWN OF CHELMSFORD PATRICIA E. DZURIS TOWN CLERK

**Members present:** Fred Brusseau, Paul Der Ananian, Steve Flynn, Mary Gibson, Jennifer Hardy, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Debra Siriani, Anne Smith, Dianne Sperry.

**Members absent:** Alan Fidler, Bob Hamilton, Ami O'Grady, Len Olenchak

**Guests Present:** Diane Boisvert, applicant for associate member of COA.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- Capitol Hill is not actively working on any issues that affect seniors.
- Beacon Hill is currently reviewing a bill that will give family caregivers a tax credit for up to \$1500. (House Bill 2608, Senate Bill 702).
- Also on Beacon Hill, there are several hearings coming up. One concerns prescription drug costs; another hearing addresses SNAP enrollment as the program is not reaching all eligible residents.

### **FRIENDS' REPORT**

- The Spaghetti Supper fundraiser is on April 24 at the Center.
- Voted \$1500 to refurbish the pool tables.
- Voted \$5000 to support the new sign.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- End-of-year budget is looking good.
- The first age-friendly listening session is taking place at the Center on April 26, 9:30-11:30. It will be a guided brain-storming session and board members are encouraged to participate. The topic is Health and Community Supports.
- Bus Drivers. Two of the longer term bus drivers have left (the bad news). The recently hired bus drivers are willingly working more hours than the previous drivers, which has eased the strain (the good news). Debi is once again looking for two additional drivers.

- A Girl Scout who is trying to earn her gold award is planning to install a Sensory Garden at the Center. Paul der Ananian raised the question of who will take care of the garden; Debi said the plan is to plant a low-maintenance garden, and both April Hunt and the Social Day Program are interested in the garden.
- The idea of a bocce court was discussed. Space and maintenance are issues, as well as cost. There is also a question about the demand. Topic tabled for now.
- Lowell Five has donated \$10,000 to the cost of the proposed sign. The approval process of installing the sign is moving forward. The Lowell Five donation, plus the \$5000 pledged by the Friends of the Senior Center, leaves a balance of approximately \$5500, which will be paid from the Center's operating fund.
  - Mary Gibson raised a question about the Center's name appearing on the sign; if the Center is renamed in the future, will it be easy to change on the sign?
  - Paul der Ananian asked if Lowell Five will require acknowledgement of their donation on the sign.

Fred Brusseau acknowledged that these are two of many details that will have to be addressed before the sign is ordered.
- Debi Siriani met with Elder Services and learned that it is OK for us to subcontract with other Centers to better meet transportation needs of the Social Day Program. Elder Services is also reviewing the current rate for companion services.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- Fred Brusseau asked that the chairs of the standing committees check when their last meeting was and, if appropriate, schedule the next meeting.
- The Program Committee needs to appoint a chairman.
- Members of the Age-Friendly Initiative committee attended an AARP Volunteer Summit meeting in Framingham. It was very beneficial; among other things, attendees learned about AARP and Tufts Health grants.  
Letter of Committal (part of the AARP Application process) has not been completed, and will now need to be handled by the new Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Fred will follow up on the status of the letter, which was started by Glenn Diggs.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- The Board reviewed the revised draft of the Perspectives document. There were extensive discussions about adding age-friendly directives to the document, about recommended capital improvements, possible renaming of the Center, and transportation issues. Fred will revise the draft and distribute it for a second review.
- Fred Brusseau raised the idea covering the pergola in order to encourage people to enjoy it more. He has investigated many options, and recommends we investigate polycarbonated corrugated roof panels. Fred will pursue this inexpensive option with DPW.

- The Board voted to recommend Diane Boisvert to become an associate member of the COA Board.
- Vote on new member, replacing Nicky Bischcoff, was deferred until the May meeting.
- Discussion of rebranding the Senior Center was deferred until the May meeting.

### **REMINDER**

- At the June meeting, we will be re-electing officers and re-nominating members whose terms have expired. In addition, we will be approving the updated Perspectives document. Members are asked to make a special effort to attend this meeting (scheduled for June 12).

**NEXT MEETING: WED., MAY 8, 2019, 9:00 a.m.**

Minutes submitted by Ruth I'Anson, Recording Secretary