



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

Date: 6/12/2019

Place: Senior Center

Room: B07

75 Groton Road, No. Chelmsford, MA 01824

Members present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Paul Der Ananian, Alan Fidler, Mary Gibson, Jennifer Hardy (by phone), Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Ami O'Grady, Len Olenchak, Debra Siriani, Anne Smith, Dianne Sperry

Members absent: Steve Flynn

Guests: Nancy Grippo and Jan Mounsey

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- Paul der Ananian moved that the current slate of officers be reelected to another term. The motion was seconded and unanimously approved
- Board members whose terms have expired were reappointed by the Board of Selectman. Those members are: Paul der Ananian, Steve Flynn, Ruth l'Anson, and Dianne Sperry.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Budget.** Debi Siriani reports that the budget is in good shape as the end of the fiscal year approaches.
- **Staffing.** The search is still on for a substitute bus driver. Additional openings exist for a kitchen worker and an additional building monitor.
- **Three-Year Plan.** Debi is starting a plan to bring staff salaries in line with the new minimum wage that will take effect in 2023.
- **Funding for Age-Friending Initiative.** At Debi's request, State Sen. Mike Barrett requested \$40K for Chelmsford's Age-Friendly Initiative. It was approved by the Senate and now has to be approved by the House.
- **Rental of Center by Outside Orgs.** Non-profit orgs. can rent the facility for \$35/hour for a custodian and, as of July 1, a \$50 setup fee. For-profit orgs. pay the same custodian rate plus a large setup fee. Discussion followed about the need to charge and set aside money to accommodate wear and tear on the facility and equipment.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Capitol Hill. Senate voted in favor of the TRACE Act, which is designed to levy penalties against robo-callers. Must now be approved by the House.
- Beacon Hill is working on the final budget. Some senior-related programs in the budget have already been funded (Elder Protective Services and Nutrition Home Community Services), but there are many programs that still need to be passed, including Meals on Wheels, Alzheimer's Awareness, Grants to COAs, and Home Care Aide training. You are encouraged to call the State House (617-722-2000) and thank your legislators for their previous support and urge their continued support for seniors in the state.

FRIENDS' REPORT

- Annual Friends' meeting takes place on Thursday, July 25, at 9:30, Room B07. All members of the Friends are encouraged to attend this meeting to establish a quorum. They are also looking for new officers and active committee members.
- COA and Friends will share a booth at the Town Fair on July 3.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- AARP will be formally presenting to Chelmsford the certificate of membership in the Age-Friendly Network. The presentation will be on July 16 at 10 a.m. at the Town Offices. The public and press are invited.
- The Building Committee compiled a list of priorities. Debi is not sure that the town is going to support the new parking lot which was promised for last year. Roof continues to leak, which is another high priority; money has been approved by Town Meeting and the job was put out to bid.
- The Health and Community Support domain of the Age-Friendly Initiative is actively working on a plan to develop dementia-friendly businesses through training and incentives.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Research continues into a viable option for covering the pergola.
- Sign update: The leading contender for the sign contract has proven to be inaccessible and review of the proposed contract raised concerns. A more local vendor is coming in to meet with Len, Fred, and Gary Persichetti. Funding is still in place and the permit has been pulled.
- Debi will distribute the Elder Services contract for Social Day Care to the board members so we can discuss it at the next meeting.

NEXT MEETING: WED., July 10, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Ruth I'Anson, Recording Secretary