



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

Date: 6/13/2018

Place: Senior Center

Room: B07

75 Groton Road, No. Chelmsford, MA 01824

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TOWN OF CHELMSFORD PATRICIA E. DZURIS TOWN CLERK

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

**Members present:** Nickie Bischoff, Fred Brusseau, Paul Der Ananian, Alan Fidler, Steve Flynn, Bob Hamilton, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Len Olenchak, Jerelyn Serra, Debra Siriani, Annie Smith, and Dianne Sperry.

**Members absent:** Terese Viega

**Guests:** Wayne Fernald (Friends rep) and John Bowles

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Paul Der Ananian reported that he has found the Fitness Center door open after the gym has closed. He is concerned that people will use it when there is no monitor and hurt themselves or the equipment. Debra Siriani said she would talk to the building maintenance staff to ensure the door is locked every day.
- Debi reported that Richard Maguire will be out on sick leave for at least another month. Paul Cohen, Town Manager, approved hiring a temporary, part-time replacement.
- LED Sign.
  - Len Olenchak needs a site plan but Dianne Sperry does not have all the size information she needs to create one. After some discussion, the needed information was exchanged. Dianne will go ahead and produce the drawing which Len will add to the proposal.
  - Once approved and installed, the sign will operate only during the day.
  - Funding will not be finalized until the sign has been approved by the town, but the expectation is that 1/3 will be funded by the DPW; 1/3 by the Senior Center; and 1/3 by one or more sponsors.
- Parking Lot. There has been no response from the town on repairing the parking lot. Because it is a safety issue, Len will look into making it an ADA issue.
- Roof replacement is scheduled to start in July, but Debi has not received a firm date. It is becoming a critical issue as leaks are damaging the inside of the building.

### **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- Capitol Hill passed the Farm Bill, which includes funding for SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).
- Louise Myers attended Elder Lobby Day at the State House to talk to reps about issues related to seniors.
- The Mass Alzheimer's and Dementia Act (H.4116) which, among other things, requires every hospital to have a plan for the recognition and management of patients with dementia is awaiting a vote in the state Senate.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- Len Olenchak and Fred Brusseau were re-elected to the COA Board for their second three-year terms, pending being sworn in at Town Hall.
- Fred presented the final draft of the Board's Perspectives document for approval. This doc, which will be signed by all board members, will be presented to Debi Siriani, Paul Cohen, Michael McCall, and George Dixon. It documents the Board's perspectives on topics that affect the Senior Center and contains the board's suggestions for needed capital improvements to the Center.
- Guest John Bowles introduced himself and explained that he was very interested in working on the Age-Friendly Community project.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- The Table of Plenty held its first dinner event at the Center in June and will continue to hold them there until the remodeling is complete at the Unitarian Church in the town center. In addition to providing support for this community service, we are also getting exposure to a large group of people who may not know about the Senior Center and the things it offers.
- Social Day Center is at capacity with a waiting list.
- A new cook, Michael Pearce, has been hired and Ann Bertos has been permanently named Food Services Manager.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- **Transportation Committee.** Ruth l'Anson reported that the Transportation Committee has been meeting monthly. To date, it has focused on gathering information about transportation services that are available in Merrimack Valley. The committee is also working on a questionnaire designed assess the transportation needs of senior residents of Chelmsford.
- **Finance/Building/Capital Planning.** The Board discussed the responsibilities of the various committees/subcommittees. It was suggested that all board members be notified of all committee and subcommittee meetings well in advance of the meeting so they can stay informed and attend additional meetings if interested.

**NEXT MEETING: WED., JULY 11, 9:00 a.m.**

Minutes submitted by Ruth l'Anson, Recording Secretary