



Regular meeting minutes of the

Council on Aging Board

Date: 8/8/2018

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, Steve Flynn, Bob Hamilton, Ruth I'Anson, Louise Myers, Len Olenchak, Debra Siriani, Annie Smith, and Dianne Sperry.

Members absent: Fred Brusseau, Paul Der Ananian, Alan Fidler, Jerelyn Serra

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Minutes of the July meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Farmer's Market.** Senior Center and Friends both had booths at a recent Farmer's Market. The goal was outreach, but the event was hampered by heavy rains. Kudos to the people who showed up to work the booths.
- **Age-Friendly Community.** Fred Brusseau and Deb Siriani met with Paul Cohen to discuss moving this project forward. They identified Lisa Marrone (Chelmsford's Business Development Director) and Evan Belansky (Chelmsford's Community Development Director) as potential committee members who will help get the general application submitted to AARP.

The Chelmsford Library is hosting an AARP presentation about the Age-Friendly Program to inform more of the public about the options.

Debi Siriani briefed our state reps about the program in a recent trip to the State House and they are all on-board.

- **Community Preservation Act.** No update. Paul Der Ananian is going to investigate how this money is allocated.

FRIENDS REPORT

- Treasurer's Report was submitted at the annual meeting. (Steve Flynn distributed copies to the COA Board.) Their balance is good, and they are considering the COA's

request for new flooring on the first level of the Center. The Friends requested additional quotes.

- Charlie Holtzman is officially resigning as General Manager of the Friends as of November. The Friends are putting a granite bench under the flag to commemorate his service and there will be a joint Volunteers Dinner/Testimonial in November.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Trump signed a bi-partisan act that provides legal resources for grandparents who are raising their grandchildren.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Staffing Update.**
 - Applicants are being interviewed for an Assistant Companion Coordinator.
 - We are looking for a new substitute worker for the Social Day Program.
- **Walkability Audit.** No update.
- **Roof.** No update.
- **Budget.** Capital Planning committee meeting is scheduled for immediately after the COA meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Percentage of residents over 60 varies, depending on the source. We need to identify the source we want to rely on (town records, AARP, other. . .) and use the same value whenever we are presenting statistics. Debi is checking into this.
- Louise Myers mentioned that several local towns have renamed their senior centers to something more generic. Debi Siriani acknowledged that this topic is a nation-wide discussion.

NEXT MEETING: WED., SEPTEMBER 12, 9:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Ruth I'Anson, Recording Secretary