



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

Date: 10/10/2018

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, Alan Fidler, Steve Flynn, Bob Hamilton, Debra Siriani, Dianne Sperry.

Members absent: Paul Der Ananian, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Jerelyn Serra, Anne Smith

Guests present: Jennifer Hardy, Amy O'Grady, John Bowles

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Minutes of the September meeting were approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Board Members. Jennifer Hardy has been approved by the Board of Selectmen as an associate member, effective immediately.

Amy O'Grady, long-time Chelmsford resident and a nurse, is currently employed at a private health-care management company. She has applied for associate membership on the Board.

Status of current associate member Jerelyn Serra was discussed. She is unable to attend board meetings, which is a requirement of membership. Debi Siriani will meet with Fred Brusseau and talk about projects that Jerelyn can participate in that better adapt to her availability.

Community Preservation Act. Report deferred until next meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- **Staff Update.**

- We hired two new people for Social Day, including one who is willing to use the Center's car to drive one or two clients when needed.
- We also interviewed building monitors to cover evening and weekend hours as needed; these positions are paid from rental fees.

- Cook position is still open and the applicant pool is small. Discussed ways to expand pool (agency, Tech high schools) and job has been reposted.
- Food Director Annie Bertos has returned from medical leave and is temporarily filling in as the cook.
- Next position to fill is another substitute van driver, who will be filling in for a driver on leave for now and will eventually be used to expand services.
- **Flooring Update.** The Friends have approved up to \$25K to replace the floor coverings on the lower level. Quotes were submitted, but one vendor recommended using a different material for better durability, so quotes (and samples) have been requested for vinyl flooring.
- **Roofing Update.** Bids have been over-budget, so the town is sending it out to rebid. That means that the replacement probably won't be completed until the spring. Photos showing the leaks and damage have been sent to the town management. This is a serious problem that has already caused significant damage and some mold. Debi Siriani and the Board are planning to continue to fight for earlier resolution to this long-standing problem before the Center is more seriously damaged.
- Alan Fidler drafted a statement expressing the board's unanimous concern about the viability of the roof which Debi will add to the package she has prepared, which includes pictures of the damage so far as well as buckets scattered around to catch drips. She and Len will be meeting with Paul Cohen and Gary Persichetti to push the issue. If necessary, Debi will reach out to the Board of Health for additional support.
- **Walkability Update.** Debbie distributed draft copies of a walkability audit (created using AARP tools) of the Center and the area between the housing and Center. While the parking lot is planned for the capital budget in FY 2020, some minor improvements will be made sooner, including lighting on the side of the building and safety yellow painting on the berm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Capital Planning and Finance.** Three capital projects were designated for FY 20: new parking lot, engineering survey of bathrooms, and electronic sign for the front of the Center. Quotes for the engineering survey put it well below the capital expenditure level, so it will be removed from the request.

Projects considered for the 5-year capital plan include new flooring in the hall, bathroom remodel, and a new car for the Center. A new automatic entry door may be needed; that is being evaluated by the Building Department.

Smaller projects being discussed include covering the beam on the patio and covering the patio roof.

- **Age-Friendly Network.** Latest meeting was well-attended by key organizations. Minutes are available online on the Council on Aging area of the town Web site. Standard meeting time will be 9:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of the month. All are welcome.

The group is currently working with the Fire Department making lock boxes available to residents so Fire Department personnel can have access to homes in an emergency situation.

Another active initiative is called Purple Table. This initiative is designed to train restaurant personnel on how to help customers who have dementia. Restaurants with trained employees set aside special tables and advertise their availability to customers.

NEW BUSINESS

Friend's meetings are typically the 4th Wednesday of the month. November's meeting will be on the 5th Wednesday because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Donors have given a 60-inch TV to the Social Day Program. They will use it screen things available on the Web (Google maps, YouTube, etc.)

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

Minutes submitted by Ruth I'Anson, Recording Secretary