



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

Date: 3/9/22

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Jennifer Hardy, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Ami O'Grady, Debi Siriani, Dianne Sperry

Members Absent: Paul Der Ananian

Minutes of the February meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Participation is up across the board. Night classes are up and running. Yoga class is starting again.
- Debi Siriani is trying to get a full-time driver back on staff, pending approval from Town Manager.
- The kitchen manager has retired. Pete Walsh will take over as kitchen manager and will continue to cook. Debi Siriani is looking for a new kitchen worker for 25 hours a week.
- Some employees have been awarded longevity status.
- Debi is also waiting to talk to the Town Manager about reinstating a facility manager. There have been a number of facilities issues lately, from heating irregularities to unpleasant odors in the lower level. This is an urgent need.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- Capitol Hill is still at a standstill. Two items of importance to seniors were addressed in the State of the Union speech: regulating drug costs and improving nursing home services.
- Beacon Hill is also moving slowly. They are working on new voting laws and reviewing bills to determine which ones will move forward to caucus.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Initiative.

- Town approved funding for a supplementary transportation program.
- Several more members of the Senior Center staff were trained as dementia friends.

- Fred Brusseau is the Age-Friendly Implementation Committee’s representative on the Town’s Master Plan Implementation Committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Virtual meetings have been authorized through July 15, so the COA will continue to meet virtually until further notice.

NEW BUSINESS

- Debi presented the revised mission statement for the COA. It is as follows:

The mission of the Chelmsford Council on Aging is to provide advocacy, support services, and programs that empower older adults to maintain independence, prepare for life changes, and improve their quality of life in an Age-Friendly Chelmsford. The COA does this by offering a range of health and wellness, social, educational, and outreach programs, while providing an open and welcoming environment.

It was unanimously approved by the board.

- Board member Tim Sherry has resigned from the Board because his work schedule has prohibited him from participating.
- Ruth l’Anson asked about the feasibility of raising the suggested donation for lunch from \$2.50 to \$3.00. Debi did not feel it was appropriate at this time.
- Louise Myers asked about the process for adding board members. Fred explained that the Select Board announces openings at each meeting. Fred suggested that the most effective way to fill openings is to talk to people at the Center. Two names of possible members were suggested and Diane Boisvert and Fred Brusseau will follow up.

NEXT MEETING: April 13, 2022