



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

Date: 1/11/23

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

Members Absent: Carole Hunt

Guests: Sandra Hall and David Paquette and Bob Schneider, prospective board members, were in attendance.

Peter Giroux made the motion to approve the December COA minutes; Diane Boisvert seconded. Motion was approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Debi Siriani reported that she has been invited to participate in several programs with MCOA, AARP, and MA Elder Affairs.
- The Friends organization has recruited several new members and are actively working on a succession plan and training.
- Debi met with Town Manager Paul Cohen to discuss her budget. She expressed her concern and frustration over the decision to remove the position of building manager from her budget, after years of postponing it. He agreed to work with the town's new Facilities Manager and also with the DPW Director to work out a solution. Debi plans to follow-up with Paul in a couple of weeks.
- New behavioral workshops have been well-attended and well-received.
- The electronic sign in front of the building is working again, thanks to the efforts of Bob Schneider.
- Debi reported that she has hired a new office assistant, Megan O'Neil.
- Night-time custodial company is not performing satisfactorily.
- Table of Plenty crew is doing a better job at cleaning up.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Capitol Hill:

Capitol Hill is in a holding pattern, but there is concern about legislation that will affect social security.

Beacon Hill:

New cabinet made a lot of promises but neither the governor nor Lt. governor mentioned anything about age-related issues.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Implementation Committee

Fred Brusseau will present the FY 22 progress report at the February meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

- Envision 2050 Transportation Focus Group will take place on Jan 30 at the Senior Center. If you want to learn more about or give input on the transportation needs of the town.
- Bob Schneider has submitted his application to town to be appointed to the Council on Aging. Ami O'Grady made a motion to recommend his appointment to the Town Manager and Louise Myers seconded it. The board unanimously approved the motion.
- Fred Brusseau announced that the Town Manager and Select Board are seeking feedback from town boards and committees on how the town can better serve the committees. Please submit your suggestions on what the town can do to provide more support to the COA to Fred by January 25.

Ruth l'Anson made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Ami O'Grady seconded it.

NEXT MEETING: February 8, 2023