



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

Date: 1/12/22

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

Members Absent: Tim Sherry

Minutes of the December meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Table of Plenty has suspended, but Center operations are back to normal, although numbers remain down. Many regional directors are suspending programs for January out of caution.
- Debi Siriani appeared before the Select Board to request a portion of the funds from the American Rescue Act. The requests: 20K for the Companion Program, 20K for the Social Day Program, and 30K for MOW. These requests were put into the deferred pile.

Guidelines for ARPA money have changed which will probably lead to more requests for the available funds.

- Quotes for cleaning services were for 3-year contracts. Per request from town hall, new quotes have been requested for 2-year contracts.
- Some staff members have contracted COVID and others have been in close contact with an infected person. BOH recommendation is that those with positive tests but no symptoms remain home for five days. Those who have been exposed can come to work with wearing a mask. Amy O'Grady asked about Center imposing stricter guidelines, but Debi Siriani said that the BOH establishes guidance for personnel, so she cannot impose other restrictions on her staff. Amy suggested Debi speak with the BOH about imposing stricter guidelines for the Center because of its high-risk population.
- Fred asked about the status of the solar panels. Debi had not been notified about their activation.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- Capitol Hill: Most bills are at a standstill. The infrastructure bill, which awaits Senate approval, includes funding for at-home health care, gives Medicare the ability to negotiate drug prices, and paid leave for caregivers. There will a vote by 2/2/22. The voting rights bill is on hold for lack of votes.
- Beacon Hill: Bills need to be reviewed and moved to a new bucket by Feb 20.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Implementation Committee: Select Board deferred decision on request for supplementary transportation funds. The Board requested supplemental information, which the Committee is now preparing.

FRIENDS REPORT

Next Friends meeting is Jan 19.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Testing of hybrid meeting was conducted successfully. We can now attend in person or virtually. Virtual is legal until April, unless the governor extends the authorization. Debi/Fred will decide a week before the next meeting whether the meeting will be hybrid or fully remote.

NEW BUSINESS

Conflict of Interest certification must be completed by April 8. Acknowledgement of receipt and completion certificates must be sent to April Hunt at the Senior Center.

UNANTICIPATED TOPICS

As a follow-up to last month's meeting, Debi Siriani said she does not feel that this is the appropriate time to ask for more funding from the Friends.

NEXT MEETING: February 9, 2022