



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

Date: 2/8/23

Place: Hybrid Meeting

Members Present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Peter Giroux, Louise Myers, Bob Schneider, Debi Siriani

Members Absent: Jennifer Hardy, Ruth l'Anson

Guests: Sandra Hall

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Debi Siriani reported that the Fleetwood Charitable Trust Foundation, which donated to the Senior Center last year, would like to know the cost to replace the freezer in the hall. Debi is getting quotes.
- There was some storm damage to the ceiling at the rear entrance of the building. It was contained to a small area but ceiling will need to be replaced.
- At the request of the Town Manager, companion care rates are changing from \$13/hour to \$15/hour. This will raise the rate charged to families.
- The submitted operating budget was accepted by the Town Manager and now goes to the Finance Committee for approval.
- Sign in front of the building is broken again.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Capitol Hill:

Focus is on the debt ceiling.

Beacon Hill:

- Over 6500 bills have been filed. Three of special interest to seniors are: a tax credit of \$1500 for family caregivers; a lower interest rate and longer payback period for property tax deferrals; more oversight of nursing home care.

- Representative Rodney Elliot will be holding office hours at the Center once or twice a month.
- Louise Myers reported that the state has given Chelmsford a \$50K grant for a Vinal Square Transportation Improvement Project.

FRIENDS UPDATE

The Ways and Means Committee has been re-energized and is busy exploring new fund-raising possibilities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Implementation Committee

Fred Brusseau presented the FY 22 progress.

NEW BUSINESS

- Sandra Hall has officially applied for membership on the COA Board. Louise Myers moved that Sandra's name be submitted to the Town Manager for appointment to the board. Carole Hunt seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
- Fred Brusseau reminded everyone that the Conflict of Interest training session is now available. You must acknowledge that you received the notice and then complete the training session, which takes about an hour. Technically, you only need to take the training every other year, but the town recommends that everyone take it this year because it is a completely new program. ***Please complete by the end of March and get copies of the acknowledgement certificate and completion certificate to Megan O'Neil in the Senior Center office.*** (If you did not receive notice about this from the Town Manager's office, let me know.)

- The Select Board recently asked boards and committees to respond to a survey about their relationship with the various boards. Fred Brusseau solicited feedback from the board members and summarized the feedback as follows:
 - We would like more presence from the Select Board members and our liaison.
 - We would like the Select Board to develop written guidelines outlining the roles and responsibilities of liaisons.

Fred also indicated that he felt the COA board needs to reach out to the community to let them know who we are and what we do. Bob Schneider and Louise Myers agreed to discuss some ideas for making this happen and Debi offered to work with them.

- The Envision 2050 organization held a focus group meeting that was well attended. They are collecting information about the transportation needs in the area and plan to meet soon with COA directors in the region to determine regional needs.

Carole Hunt moved that the meeting be adjourned and Louise Myers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING: March 8, 2023