



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

**Date: 2/10/2021**

**Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Paul Der Ananian, Ruth l'Anson, Jan Mounsey, Louise Myers, Debi Siriani,

**Members Absent:** Len Olenchak, Jennifer Hardy, Ami O'Grady, Anne Smith, Dianne Sperry, Mary Gibson

Minutes of the January meeting were approved.

**UNANTICIPATED TOPICS**

- Fred Brusseau announced that Len Olenchak has resigned from the Council on Aging board because of health reasons. Fred will assume the position of Chair for the remainder of Len's term, in accordance with the Board's Policies and Procedures.
- Len's resignation opens a seat on the COA board. The opening will be advertised on the Town's web site and at the Select Board meetings. It will also be posted in the newsletter.
- If you are interested in the Vice Chair position, please notify a member of the nominating committee (Annie Smith, Ami O'Grady, Paul Der Ananian, Ruth l'Anson). Elections will be held in June (for the new fiscal year which starts in July).

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Senior Center continues to be a vaccination site for first responders from Chelmsford and surrounding towns.
- Social Day program has reopened and is now using three rooms to maintain social distancing.
- Collen Normandy trained van drivers on dementia-friendly procedures.
- AARP-sponsored tax-assistance program is in jeopardy, with AARP withholding its sponsorship. Details are still being worked out with local volunteers.
- Application for Walmart grant was denied.
- Meals on Wheels program has resumed using a few volunteers to help deliver meals.
- Debi Siriani submitted a request for a short-term grant from the Massachusetts COA. If approved, the \$20K will be used to support the Social Day program.
- The Friends has agreed to fund a second raised bed area for seniors who want to grow flowers and veggies.

- Debi Siriani paid special tribute to board member Diane Boisvert for her volunteer efforts as a SHINE counselor. SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) is a state-sponsored program that provides free counseling to Medicare recipients and their caregivers.
- Debi also singled out Fred Brusseau for his work both on the COA Board and for his efforts in leading the Age-Friendly Initiative from a big idea to an approved action plan. Both contributions required many hours of hard work.

### **AGE-FRIENDLY INITIATIVE**

- The action plan has been approved by the town management and been submitted to AARP.
- The Town Manager will be forming an implementation committee to turn the plans into reality.

**NEXT MEETING: March 10, 2021**