



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

Date: 3/8/23

Place: Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Peter Giroux, Sandra Hall, Jennifer Hardy, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Bob Schneider, Debi Siriani

Minutes from the February meeting were approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Tax rebate workers fiscal year ended and totals tallied and submitted to the Assessor's office. Changes over the last year have reduced the number of months when hours can be accrued from 11 months to 8 months, meaning for four months of the year, volunteers are strictly volunteers. Top volunteers for the year were Carol Sousa and Nancy Grippo.
- NarCan training is available for staff and the public from the Board of Health.
- Debi is still waiting for a quote on the freezer replacement which was requested from Kathleen Canavan, Public Facilities Director. There is an organization willing to fund the freezer as soon as they receive the quote.
- Sign is working again. Thanks to Bob Schneider for his assist.
- Back stairs are still closed due to leak, but they should be reopened soon.
- Solar panels have not lowered the electric bill, but instead the electric bill has gone up. Debi asked the Town Manager about it and was assured it will eventually to down.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Capitol Hill:

There is a lot going on but not much is happening. There is a lot of focus right now on the ERA bill, but that should be wrapped up soon.

Beacon Hill:

- Governor Healy has released her \$742 million proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. It includes provisions for expanded tax credits for families, children and dependents,

and an increase to the Senior Circuit Breaker tax credit. These items need to be approved by the legislature, which has not been supportive in the past.

- House Bill 2790 (Nursing Home Bill) is getting increased attention and support after the recent COVID outbreak at a Cape Cod nursing home.

FRIENDS UPDATE

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee

Line-dancing social has been scheduled. Natalie has introduced a chair yoga program, and multi-cultural cooking classes are back!

Age-Friendly Implementation Committee

Fred Brusseau has been invited to present the Age-Friendly Progress Report to the Select Board.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Fred Brusseau reminded everyone that the Conflict of Interest training session is now available and must be completed by the end of March.** 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.
- Louise Myers and Bob Schneider volunteered to collect ideas about expanding community outreach. Bob's first suggestion is to have a booth at the July 4th fair. Debi offered a slot on the Age-Friendly cable show to any board member who wants to make an appearance and explain what we do. Debi suggested pins be made for board members to wear to identify themselves. It was also suggested that board members appear occasionally at lunch or at the Veterans Breakfast and check in with people in attendance to see what's on their minds.

UNANTICIPATED TOPICS

Bob Schneider raised his concern that the acoustics in B07 (where the media equipment is located) are way below standards. Bob commented that it would be an inexpensive project and he offered to get some prices.

Ruth l'Anson moved that the meeting be adjourned and Louise Myers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

NEXT MEETING: April 12, 2023