



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

**Date: 4/12/23**

**Place: Zoom Meeting**

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

**Members Absent:** Ami O'Grady, Jennifer Hardy

Peter Giroux moved that the minutes from the March meeting be approved. Carole Hunt seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- There were no applications for the full-time driver position. After further discussion between Debi Siriani and Janet MacPherson (Transportation Coordinator), it was decided to hire another part-time driver instead. HR agreed and that enabled Debi to move Janet's position to the general fund.
- Debi Siriani has been meeting with outside partners over the past month, including the Mass Council on Aging Nutrition Task Force, AgeSpan, and the Merrimack Valley Medical Reserve Corps.
- Membership is growing. Some of the recent interest has been the result of people coming in to get their taxes done and liking what they see.
- Veterans Breakfast was fully funded for the year thanks to three generous donors: Lowell Community Health Foundation, Trinity Ambulance, and John Tebow???
- Chelmsford High School and Westford Academy have provided two interns who will be working 30 hours a week helping with the social day program and other activities around the Center.
- Quote for the freezer was provided but the quote did not include related construction costs. Debi is waiting to hear from Kathleen Canavan to set up a meeting to discuss those.
- Debi will be meeting with Christine Clancy, new head of the DPW, to go over the list of building needs.

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### **Capitol Hill:**

All is quiet.

### **Beacon Hill:**

- Governor Healy is pushing hard to get her budget approved.
- Representatives have been meeting with their constituents.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Age-Friendly Implementation Committee**

Fred Brusseau briefed the Select Board on the accomplishments of the Age-Friendly Implementation Committee and has since been invited to make the presentation to the Town Meeting. The presentation was also sent to the Massachusetts office of AARP, and they in turn are forwarding it to the national AARP office.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Fred Brusseau went over the document created by the Select Board from the responses they received to their recent questionnaire. The Select Board has identified actionable items that will be assigned to Select Board members.

Community outreach ideas were discussed. Bob Schneider had several ideas: direct mailing to seniors in town; having the town moderator highlight some things about the Senior Center during the Town Meeting; including a flyer in the tax bill.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth was also discussed. Should we have a raffle basket? Provide water? Have a give-away? (Carole Hunt is going to look into the cost of shopping bags.)

Other outreach ideas included circulating at the Table of Plenty dinners, providing scheduled tours of the Center, producing a flyer that explains what the COA board does.

Debi suggested that we get name tags for members to wear when doing outreach work.

Outreach programs, especially the 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth, will be discussed in detail at the May meeting.

## **UNANTICIPATED TOPICS**

Louise Myers proposed that the COA Board have a piece in the Messenger every month. She checked with Natalie and was told there would be space for it. Louise offered to submit a draft for review in time for the May newsletter.

Hybrid meetings have been approved for another two years.

It is time to update membership of the standing committees. Members should decide on committee membership.

Pete Giroux moved that the meeting be adjourned and Diane Boisvert seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

***NEXT MEETING: May 10, 2023***