



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

**Date: 4/13/22**

**Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting**

**Members Present:** Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Louise Myers, Ami O’Grady, Debi Siriani, Dianne Sperry

**Members Absent:** Paul Der Ananian, Jennifer Hardy, Ruth I’Anson

**Guests:** Carole Hunt, Bob Friesner, Peter Giroux

Minutes of the March meeting were approved. (Diane Boisvert made the motion to approve the minutes; Louise Myers seconded. Passed unanimously.)

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- Debi Siriani reported that she recently compared attendance numbers from FY’19 and FY’22 and found that attendance has not yet returned to its pre-pandemic levels.
- The Center has hired a new kitchen worker who will be starting in a few weeks. Meanwhile, Peter Walsh is handling at dual role of cook and kitchen manager well.
- Luncheon menu has changed to include one plant-based meal/week.
- Companion Coordinator has resigned after a short but very successful time in the job.
- The parking lot project came in below budget so the town’s Public Works Dept is using the extra funds to add sprinklers to the Center’s front lawn.
- The Center has scheduled an expert on Vladimir Putin to make a presentation at the Senior Center. Debi is planning to moderate in case there is controversy.

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

- Capitol Hill is on Easter recess. Before adjourning, they did pass a bi-partisan COVID spending bill. Also, the President signed an executive order to build onto the Affordable Care Act.
- It is budget season on Beacon Hill. Bills must be passed by July 1. Among the bills under consideration are the family caregivers’ tax-credit bill; a nursing home reform bill; and the senior property tax relief bill.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- The Housing Domain of the Age-Friendly Implementation Committee has partnered with Lowell's Habitat for Humanity to create a plan for bringing the homes of qualified residents up to code.
- Recently the Implementation Committee got very good press in the Eagle Independent.
- The committee is putting together an annual report, marking its first complete year in operation.

### **FRIENDS REPORT**

- At their most recent meeting, Joe Connolly urged the Friends members to support and participate in activities at the Center.
- Louise Myers read the COA's mission statement to the Friends board.
- Louise Myers suggested a joint meeting with the Friends. Fred Brusseau will follow up with Joe Connolly.
- There was a short discussion about the Friends funding priorities. Their focus seems to have shifted from funding Center projects to funding Center programs. That raised concerns with several COA board members, who pointed to the need for funding improvements that are not covered by capital budget needs. Clarification on what the Friends mean by funding programs is needed.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- Virtual meetings have been authorized through July 15, so the COA will continue to meet virtually until further notice. Fred Brusseau suggested we try to do an in-person meeting during the summer. Diane Boisvert asked about the possibility of holding hybrid meetings, which have been tested successfully. Will be discussed again next month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Paul Der Ananian announced that he is resigning from the Board.
- Fred Brusseau introduced the three potential new board members who attended this meeting: Carole Hunt, Bob Friesner, and Peter Giroux.
- Per our Policy and Procedures, we will have an election of officers at the June meeting, so a full attendance would be beneficial. A quorum is required.

**NEXT MEETING: May 11, 2022**