



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

Date: 4/14/2021

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Debi Siriani, Dianne Sperry

Members Absent: Paul Der Ananian, Jennifer Hardy, Jan Mounsey, Ami O'Grady

Guests: Tim Sherry and Sandie Ranie, who are interested in joining the COA.

Minutes of the March meeting were approved.

UNANTICIPATED TOPICS

- The pergola! The nice weather is coming, so it is time to revisit this topic. A number of options were discussed. Debi Siriani reports that Kathleen Canavan (Chelmsford Facilities Manager) supports a professional solution, while the Board leans toward a less expensive, more DIY approach. Friends of the Center, who have not been able to do fund-raising during the pandemic, are not interested in supporting this project.
- Tim Sherry was unanimously approved to join the Board, replacing Len Olenchak who resigned recently.
- Sandie Ranie was introduced as a potential new board member.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Slowly reopening some of the Center's activities, on a reservation-only basis, starting 5/1.
 - Pool room (two participants at a time)
 - Fitness room
 - Library
 - Walking group
 - Sit and get fit group increased from 2X/week to 3X week
 - Companion program
- Kitchen remodel will start as soon as school ends (we need school kitchen to prepared Meals on Wheels)
- Jersey barriers will be installed in parking lot to block off activity areas from parking/traffic areas.

- Volunteers are slowly being brought back to work, with emphasis on the tax-rebate workers.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Beacon Hill
 - The state legislature is holding listening sessions to hear from the chief stakeholders, policy experts, impacted populations and others to analyze the state of the health care system in the Commonwealth. AARP is fighting for money for caregivers.
 - Formula grant rate is currently \$12/senior/town. Based on the current census, the rate may be lowered because number of seniors has increased.
- Part of the American Rescue Plan Act includes increased spending for Alzheimer's research.

AGE-FRIENDLY CHELMSFORD INITIATIVE

- First meeting of the Implementation Committee is scheduled for 4/28.
- Habitat for Humanity, most noted for building homes for those in need, also has programs to help eligible people preserve their home with outside maintenance or bring a home up to code. (Contact local Habitat office for information.)

NEXT MEETING: May 12, 2021