



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

Date: 5/8/2019

Place: Senior Center

Room: B07

75 Groton Road, No. Chelmsford, MA 01824

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RECEIVED 2019-06-06 9:28 AM

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD PATRICIA E. DZURIS TOWN CLERK

Members present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Paul Der Ananian, Alan Fidler, Steve Flynn, Mary Gibson, Jennifer Hardy, Debra Siriani, Anne Smith, Dianne Sperry

Members absent: Bob Hamilton, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Len Olenchak

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Minutes: Minutes of the April meeting were approved, with modification.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

- Capitol Hill. Little activity, although they are working on Prescription Drug Costs and holding Big Pharm accountable.
- Also on Capitol Hill, Senator Edward Markey spoke on Congressional Action to help prevent and block robocalls. TRACED Act (must go to committee) He is working with Senator John Thune (R-S.D.)
- Beacon Hill reviewed hundreds of possible amendments to the FY 2020 budget. Of those included, the following two are of particular interest to seniors.
 - Meals on Wheels #393 – Restores funding to the Elder Nutrition Program
 - LGBT Training #1052 – LGBT Aging Provider Training expanded to home health providers, COA's, nursing homes and adult day health programs

FRIENDS' REPORT

- The Spaghetti Supper fundraiser was a successful and enjoyable event that netted \$80.00.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Staffing. Debi Siriani is still looking for two substitute bus drivers as well as an additional building monitor.
- Companion Program. Betty Chaput, Companion Coordinator, and Carol Grueneich, Assistant Coordinator, are switching hours as of July 1, 2019.
- Social Day Program. Contract with Elder Services is in negotiations for an increase, which has not happened in 11 years.
- Tax Abatement Program. Participants can now earn up to \$1000/year by volunteering at town agencies.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Louise Myers is now the chair of the Program Committee.
- Chelmsford's Age-Friendly Initiative application was submitted to AARP and subsequently accepted, making Chelmsford part of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly Communities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Second draft of the Perspectives document was reviewed. Final changes will be made by Fred Brusseau and the completed version will be ready for signatures at the June meeting.
- Jennifer Hardy and Ami O'Grady were both elected as full board members, replacing Nickie Bischoff and Bob Hamilton, who both resigned.
- Fred has the sign quote (\$19,706), the artist's rendition, and the technical specifications.

NEW BUSINESS

- Alan Fidler has decided to leave the board at the end of his term (June 2019).

NEXT MEETING: WED., JUNE 12, 2019, 9:00 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Ruth I'Anson, Recording Secretary