



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

Date: 5/11/22

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Jennifer Hardy, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Ami O'Grady, Debi Siriani, Dianne Sperry

Members Absent: Dianne Sperry

Guests: Peter Giroux, Carole Hunt

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Volunteer appreciation celebration being held in the hall today. Lunch, ice cream social, and the Upbeats band. Over 90 people signed up!
- The sign in front of the Center is not currently working so the American flag is the default setting.
- New kitchen worker is in her second week and is doing well.
- Employee evaluations have started.
- April Hunt has been promoted. A new position was created to include running a multi-town task force for hoarding disorder, the Companion Program, the LGBTQ group, and other programs. This creates a new opening for a department assistant to take over April's previous duties, which are currently being handled by Debi Siriani.
- Still no full-time van driver. Not sure there is a need yet.
- Maintenance person (to replace Dan) has not been approved. Deb Siriani is submitting requests to the town for repairs, which requires extensive follow-up from her. The need for a maintenance person is increasingly obvious.
- Building monitor position is still unfilled. That means that other organizations cannot schedule events at the Center.
- Budget is doing fine. Plus Jim Arciero, member of the MA House, submitted a request to the House for \$25K for the Center's lunch program. It has been approved by the House and now awaits approval from the Senate conference committee and the Governor. Hopefully it will be available at the start of the next fiscal year (July 1). Food costs have been skyrocketing and the current reimbursement rate is \$1.16/meal.

- Fred Brusseau asked if there is someone in another town department who might be interested in filling the building position. Debi acknowledged that she has explored this possibility, but that most departments are already stretched thin. She did ask the new kitchen worker to consider picking up extra hours as the monitor and she is considering it.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

- Capitol Hill: As far as senior-related legislation goes, things are at a standstill, although Sens. Warren and Markey are pushing hard for Medicare to be able to negotiate the cost of prescription drug prices.
- Beacon Hill: Bills that will be considered during this legislative session have been selected and are now being considered for amendments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program Committee Report

Meeting scheduled for April was rescheduled for May.

Age-Friendly Implementation Committee

Memory Café will be set up and held at the Senior Center, with assistance from some high school students.

FRIENDS REPORT

Fred Brusseau spoke with Friends officers about having a joint meeting. No date has been set, but both boards agree that it is a good idea.

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 or hybrid meeting during the summer, probably in August.

NEW BUSINESS

Fred opened the topic of agenda items for the joint meeting with a general outline he drafted. The Friends will go through a similar exercise and then meet with Fred to come up with a final agenda for the meeting.

Ruth l'Anson made a motion to recommend Carole Hunt and Peter Giroux to the Town Manager for appointment to the Council on Aging board. Ami O'Grady seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Ruth l'Anson moved to adjourn the meeting and Diane Boisvert seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: June 8, 2022