



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

Date: 6/8/22

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Peter Giroux, Carole Hunt, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Ami O'Grady, Debi Siriani

Members Absent: Jennifer Hardy

Guests: Lillian Martin

Minutes of the May meeting were approved. (Peter Giroux made the motion to approve the minutes; seconded by Carole Hunt. Passed unanimously.)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Debi Siriani met with Paul Cohen for her annual review. Her goals were to reestablish pre-pandemic activities; implement intergenerational programs; complete kitchen renovation. All of those goals were met. Next year's goals are to increase intercultural and intergenerational programs; establish multi-town task force for hoarding disorder (already underway); increase mental health supports.
- Nasty odor downstairs believed to be caused by grease trap. Specialists are being brought in correct the problem and install air filtration system.
- Staff increases fall into two categories. Town -funded jobs automatically get a 2% increase plus a step increase. Grant-funded jobs get only what Debi's budget allows; she wants to ensure that it is more than 2%.
- Debi is still trying to hire a department assistant to help manage the office, handle payroll, and pay bills.
- Paul Cohen advised Debi that he will reassess the building maintenance position once the new DPW manager has gotten up to speed.
- Sign is still broken, while vendors fight over who is responsible.
- Debi is using some of her discretionary funds from the Friends to give gift cards to the Meals on Wheels drivers to assist with the cost of gas.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Capitol Hill

- Trustees for the SSA released their annual report which stated that they can continue to pay social security at 100% to 2034, after which they will only be able to pay 77%.
- Discussions continue on enabling Medicare to negotiate the cost of prescription drug prices.

Beacon Hill: All bills and amendments must be enacted by July 31.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

- Plans continue for a joint meeting of the Friends and COA boards.
- Treasure Shop needs a volunteer pick-up person.
- Friends approved their \$3000/month grant to the Center to use at its discretion. (This is a renewal of their policy of previous years.)
- Friends expressed an interest in restoring evening activities.

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

- Dianne Sperry has resigned from the Council on Aging board.
- Carole Hunt and Peter Giroux have been appointed to the COA board.
- Lillian Martin has expressed an interest in joining the COA board.
- Fred Brusseau reviewed and updated the membership of the standing committees.
- Election of officers was held. The Nominating Committee submitted the following names: Fred Brusseau, Chairman; Ami O'Grady, Vice Chair; Ruth l'Anson, Secretary. All three members were unanimously elected, Fred and Ami for a 2-year term; Ruth for an indefinite term.

Diane Boisvert moved to adjourn the meeting and Carole Hunt seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: July 13, 2022