



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

**Date: 6/9/2021**

**Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting**

TOWN OF  
CHELMSFORD  
PATRICIA E.  
DZURIS  
TOWN CLERK

**Members Present:** Diane Boisvert, Fred Brusseau, Paul Der Ananian, Jennifer Hardy, Ruth l'Anson, Louise Myers, Debi Siriani, Dianne Sperry, Tim Sherry

**Members Absent:** Jan Mounsey, Ami O'Grady

Minutes of the May meeting were approved.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Successful but slow opening.
  - Fitness Center will be opening up to new members.
  - Café and Treasure Shop will be opening in July.
  - Kitchen reno starting in June.
  - Social day accepting new clients.
  - Many programs have been reinstated. So far, there have been no requests for evening classes.
- Companion program needs a new manager; this is a part-time job that is currently being filled by Colleen Normandy.
- Debi met with Transportation Domain coordinator to hear their proposal for a volunteer driver program. Debi and Fred to meet to discuss this further.
- Day trips are being discussed for local venues.
- **Canvas-like fabric has been ordered to cover pergola.**
- Year-end budget ended up with a little extra because gas costs were way down. Surplus will be used to purchase:
  - New TV and stand for lower level
  - Blinds for social day
  - Stair treads
  - Some items for the kitchen reno to help keep the project on budget in the next fiscal year.
- Debi Siriani submitted the request for the Elder Services contract (61 separate documents).

## **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

- Capitol Hill
  - Rules Committee is holding hearings on the Food Insecurity Act to explore ways to end hunger in America
  - HR3 (the Elijah Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now) would require the Department of Health and Human Services to negotiate prices for single-source brand-name drugs and to ensure the U.S. prices are in-line with those paid in certain other countries.  
There is no equivalent bill in the Senate.
- Beacon Hill. State bills are finally going into caucuses. Bills of particular interest to seniors:
  - Extending the voting and election rules established during COVID-19.
  - Reviewing the laws regarding elder protective services.
  - Investigating drug costs (currently with Finance Committee).
  - Senator Barrett has submitted a request for \$65K for the Chelmsford Senior Center. This bill has passed the Senate and is now in the conference committee.

## **AGE-FRIENDLY CHELMSFORD INITIATIVE**

Next meeting is scheduled for June 30.

## **FRIENDS UPDATE**

- Louise Myers is the new liaison between the COA and the Friends.
- The annual meeting of the Friends will be held on July 22 at 9:30, followed by a general meeting.
- The Ways and Means committee is looking for ideas for new fund-raisers.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- June meeting is the COA's annual meeting, but no elections were required because no terms expired. Vice-chair seat remains open.
- Committee members whose terms expire will be contacted by the Town Clerk's office.
- The type of meeting (virtual vs in-person) will depend on the state's ruling on the matter. If the state extends the timeframe for virtual open meetings, then Fred Brusseau will poll members for their preference.

**NEXT MEETING: July 14, 2021**