



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

Date: 6/14/23

Place: Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Diane Boisvert, Peter Giroux, Sandra Hall, Carole Hunt, Ruth I'Anson, Louise Myers, Bob Schneider, Debi Siriani

Members Absent: Fred Brusseau, Jennifer Hardy

Peter Giroux moved that the minutes from the May meeting be approved. Sandra Hall seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Debi Siriani completed the annual staff evaluations. She is happy with her staff and the staff is generally satisfied with their jobs although all feel overwhelmed at times.
- New bus driver is fully trained.
- Working with Fleetwing about funding a new freezer.
- Budget is doing well. Two programs that are in the red are the lunch program and the companion program. Companion program costs have risen because of staffing changes and an increase in pay rate for companions, which has resulted in some clients leaving the program.
- Debi again raised the issue of building maintenance tasks with the Town Manager. Existing staff sometimes needs to address maintenance issues, while other issues have a long wait time to be addressed by the DPW.
- Goals set for Debi by the Town Manager during her review are: help transition the new Friends board; work with new DPW director to address building maintenance issues, including completing the HVAC upgrade; continue outreach to the diverse population of Chelmsford.
- Sensory garden is making progress.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Capitol Hill:

- Quiet as far as new bills are concerned.
- Debt ceiling raised without cuts to Social Security or Medicare.

Beacon Hill:

- Governor's proposed budget is being reviewed in conference with House and Senate members to work out differences.
- Two-day tax holiday has been scheduled for August.

FRIENDS UPDATE

- Louise Myers encouraged the Friends to assign a liaison to the COA.
- Annual meeting will be July 19, and a new board will be elected at that meeting.
- The Friends are sponsoring a July raffle.
- Friends have hired an Elvis impersonator for a fund-raiser in September.

NEW BUSINESS

- Debi Siriani requested a meeting with members of the Finance Committee and the Building Committee to start planning the capital budget for FY 2024.
- Debi held a meeting to discuss the challenges facing new members. Some thoughts include giving regular tours, a lunch welcome table, and a town-wide annual mailing of the newsletter. Also looking for ideas to attract more men.
- Sandra Hall inquired about providing information to new homeowners, either through local realtors or possibly the town offices.
- The Friends are asking for a list of things we would like them to fund. (Louise mentioned the need for new bingo equipment.)
- July 3rd booth is planned, and will include a bench for people to sit and chat.

Carole Hunt moved that the meeting be adjourned. Diane Boisvert seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: July 12, 2023