



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

Date: 7/12/23

Place: Zoom Meeting

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

Members Absent: Jennifer Hardy

Carole Hunt moved that the minutes from the June meeting be approved. Ruth l'Anson seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously (with Fred Brusseau abstaining).

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Sandra Hall has agreed to work with Nancy Grippo and Walter Macomber on the Senior Tax Worker Program.
- Friends annual meeting is on July 19. Board members are encouraged to attend.
- Friends are soliciting money requests, so if you have ideas for spending their money, share them with Debi.
- Friends are planning an Elvis fundraiser event for Sept. 14. Debi has been discouraged by the lack of participation from members of the Friends board, with the exception of Cynthia Joyce who is driving it.
- Debi sponsored a chat with members, soliciting ideas for making new members feel welcome and encouraging new members. It was well-attended and Debi will be sending out a summary of their suggestions to board members. Ruth l'Anson said that the Program Committee will be discussing this topic at its August meeting.
- Debi will also schedule a discussion for interested board members about welcoming and diversifying new members.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Capitol Hill:

Infrastructure improvement funds have been released and some of the funds are targeted for improving the Lowell bridges.

Beacon Hill:

All is quiet. The legislature is still determining which of the submitted bills will be brought to the floor this year.

NEW BUSINESS

Municipal Open House. Fred Brusseau represented COA Board at the Select Board’s recent Municipal Open House, which invited Chelmsford residents to meet and get acquainted with the various Town committees and boards. Attendance from the boards and committees was good. Generally feeling was that it was beneficial and that it should become an annual event.

Housing Advisory Board. Main topic of this meeting was the zoning restrictions for adding another dwelling unit to an existing unit. There is interest in revising the zoning restrictions to be in line with bordering communities.

Public Comment Policy. This policy is still under review by the Town Manager and Select Board.

Community Outreach Efforts. July 4th booth was canceled because of the potential for bad weather. Natalie will be attending the Fall Festival on the Common in October. Outreach efforts will also be discussed at the August Program Committee meeting.

Debi Siriani reports that new members are signing up almost every day.

Diane Boisvert suggested a sign at the entry listing the facilities on the lower level.

Debi suggested doing a tour of the Senior Center to be televised on the Chelmsford Media Channel.

Joint Meeting with the Friends. Fred has initiated discussions with the Friends for a joint meeting, targeting October. The topic will be accomplishments of each board during the last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Ruth l’Anson presented suggestions for Friends’ funding, including more sound-proofing in the activity rooms, new curtains in the hall, maybe increased staffing. Debi has asked other members to forward suggestions to her.

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

NEXT MEETING: August 9, 2023