



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

Date: 7/13/22

Place: Virtual Zoom Meeting

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

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Debi Siriani plans to start interviewing candidates for the department assistant.
- Raises given to staff, both those funded by grant money and those on the town payroll.
- September is Older Americans Month. Debi Siriani asked Board members if anyone was interested in having a "Meet the Board" event during the month.
- Group of students from the local Chinese church volunteering for a week this month.
- Debi participated in a Zoom meeting hosted by Congresswoman Lori Trahan to gather information about food insecurity issues. Debi shared her concerns about the money that used to be available to the Senior Center to supplement the food programs. This subsidy represented \$20K/year to the Chelmsford Senior Center and was discontinued without explanation. In addition, the food subsidy provided by Elder Services is only \$1.16 per meal, which isn't close to covering costs. Debi has researched who is responsible to setting this rate without success and has requested help from Congresswoman Trahan to find out who sets the rate.
- Debi will be setting up in a Finance committee meeting for anyone who wants to attend. She will include Natalie Dussault in this meeting to introduce her to the finance planning aspect of the Center.
- Odor problem is better in the basement, but is very bad behind the building. Air quality specialist is coming in to evaluate the ventilation in the basement. Once she receives the specialist's evaluation, Debbie will take the steps necessary to correct the problem. One room on the lower level remains closed.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Capitol Hill: Discussions continue on enabling Medicare to negotiate the cost of prescription drug prices.

Beacon Hill:

- Budget still pending.
- Legislation for a tax-credit for family care-givers is pending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Age-Friendly Implementation Committee

There will be an age-friendly job fair at the Center on August 18. The first hour will be for seniors only; the rest of the fair will be open to anyone. Focused on part-time and day-time jobs. There will also be counseling on resume preparation and interview skills.

Nominating Committee

Ruth l'Anson submitted Lillian Martin's name as a prospective member to the Council on Aging Board. It was unanimously approved and will be submitted to Paul Cohen at Town Hall.

FRIENDS REPORT

Annual meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 20. Open to all.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Fred Brusseau suggested an in-person meeting in August. Hybrid attendance is available if you notify Fred or Debi in advance.

NEW BUSINESS

- Agenda is being prepared for joint meeting with the Friends.
- Peter Giroux, a resident of senior housing in Chelmsford, has been soliciting opinions from the residents. There is a consistent complaint about the trip planning. It is difficult to get on the trips because they fill up so quickly. Also, there have been repeated requests for a trip to casinos. Debi Siriani agreed to look into it and will follow-up with Peter.
- Fred Brusseau reminded members that a recent email from Town Hall about policies needs to be acknowledged.

Louise Myers moved to adjourn the meeting and Ami O'Grady seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously.

NEXT MEETING: August 10, 2022