

Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

June 20, 2019

231 Maple Road Longmeadow, MA 01106

Present: Executive Director Jim Leyden, Acting Chair George Shea, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Marybeth Bergeron, Saul Finestone, Phil Hallahan, Marilyn Hurst, Rose Morace, Marge Morgan, Fran Miffitt, Eleanor Stolar

Absent: Julie Moulton, John Bowen, Select Board Liaison Marie Angelides.

Guest: Robin Frechette

Welcome: Meeting called to order at 9:00am.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from May 16, 2019 were approved. A question from Phil regarding staff of the Open Pantry being compensated. Only the woman in charge is on the payroll. A congratulations to the schools in town who have donated food to the pantry.

Reports:

a. **Select board:** Marie was unable to attend the meeting.

b. **State Representative office:** Robin stated that she is hopeful that our new generator will go thru and we should know by July 1st. A bill S1072 regarding bullying in the work place has been filed. Robin passed out information regarding the bill and also information to send a letter of support for the bill. Phil noted that letters were sent out to the town regarding our drinking water. This question should be answered by the public health department. Jim will check with the DPW as well.

c. **Director's report:** Jim passed out the department reports. Marybeth thanked Jim for all of his hard work with the Voice. Also congratulations to Erin for her work with the seniors. Jim would like an assistant for Erin at some point, as a lot of work is involved with her position as Outreach Coordinator. Jim will be meeting with the town manager to discuss the ground breaking ceremony being held July 11, 2019 between 11:00 and 11:30 am.

d. **Treasurers Report:** Jim passed out the treasurer's report to the board. We will be wrapping up this year July 1st. On July 1 there will be funds for the Home Modification Program and anyone interested in applying can do so with Erin. A new van update- Brian Ashe's wife is a graphic designer and will design the logo on the van. A concern regarding the exhaust pipe being too low to the ground- this will be checked. Jim stated two new receptionists have been hired. This is a part-time position. Beverly Parker, 18 hours, and Chava Cohen, 12 hours. More staff will be needed when we move into the new center. Phil stated that we need to set up hours for the new center. Jim noted that it is up to the town to give us the hours. We should have a subcommittee from the COA formed to discuss this with the select board.

e. **FOLOCA:** Marilyn noted they met June 11th and discussed the new van and the possibility of a portable cover for the van in the winter should be considered. Judy wondered why FOLOCA should be involved with the van as they didn't pay for any of it. Jim stated that a covering for the van would have to be approved by the Town Manager. Erin spoke to us about the new neighbor to neighbor program. It is a \$5,000 grant to be used for marketing and volunteer training.

f. **GSSSI:** Fran noted the time was spent going over the year before grants. Also, the flex program on Meals on Wheels were discussed. There were 1,000 calls into GSSSI on troubles from seniors.

g. **Building Committee:** The ground breaking will occur July 11 between 11:00-11:30 am. We need to pass out packets to people regarding donations to help pay cost of necessities in the new center. So far, \$17,500 in 10 weeks has been donated or pledged.

h. **Advocacy:** A question of the fund balances on the Treasurer's Report. Where will that money be used? Jim noted that it's up to the Town Manager as to how that can be used. Fran wondered if a search for a new Town Manager is going on. At this time we will have an interim Town Manager. Phil would like to see a member of the COA on the committee to find someone for the position. A question of our having meetings during the summer months was brought up. Most felt only if there was something important. Phil felt we needed to have these meetings to stay on top of the new building construction. Should we charge a fee to people out of town or not, once the building is completed. A decision to meet in August was decided. It will be the 15th of August.

New Business:

a. Delaney's Market Special Event- July 18th from 6-8 pm. Tickets are \$15 and can be obtained at the office. Please try and attend.

Old Business:

a. The COA receptionist positions- two have been hired.

b. Update: New Van: We approved of the graphics for the van. The town moderator, sent a letter to all residents and would like to come and speak to the board in the fall.

Saul spoke regarding recommendations for the luncheon at the ground breaking. 1. We need to have the COA acknowledged. 2. The board should all sit together. 3. We should know in advance how many COA members will attend.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 am.

Respectively submitted

Ellie Tyson, Secretary