

Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

September 19, 2019

231 Maple Road Longmeadow, MA 01106

**Present:** Executive Director Jim Leyden, Chair George Shea, Vice Chair Fran Miffitt, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Marybeth Bergeron, John Bowen, Saul Finestone, Phil Hallahan, Marilyn Hurst, Marge Morgan, Julia Moulton, Rose Morace, Eleanor Stolar, Judy Yaffe, Theresa Yesu and Select Board Liaison Marie Angelides.

**Guest:** Robin Frechette, Town Moderator Rebecca Townsend

**Welcome:** A welcome to Rebecca and a motion for her to start the meeting.

**Under New Business:** Rebecca would like to involve people in town who are unable to attend meetings. A use of software known as In Dialogue is to be tested. Rebecca passed out a memo explaining how this system would work and the advantages it would have. This is a pilot test and if we don't like it we do not have to use it. Also a memo was given to each COA member regarding the Middle School buildings. A question of what we should do about our Middle School buildings. Marie noted that the software was an incredible gift for the town and we as the COA will have more of a voice than before. We would be a pilot project for the community.

**Approval of Minutes:** Saul noted in the last months minutes under new business the term additional personal should be additional personnel. The minutes were than approved.

**Reports:**

- a. **Select board:** Marie noted on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm a public forum to review the warrants for the Town Meeting which is November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. There are 20 articles. The DPW is one of the main warrants. As they are asking the town for more money to cover the cost of removing the asbestos problem. Marie stated that the number of people for the town manager position, is down to four candidates. Jay, our interim manager, is doing a great job. Also, the cover for our new van is still on the table.
- b. **State Representative office:** A question regarding social card games and what amount of winnings you can take home. You cannot take funds for running a game of chance. Some centers do not inforce these rules; if they are inforced than people might not come to the center. Judy wondered if it would be helpful to Jim if this information came from the director of the COA. Also, a bill H623 regarding a spouse being paid for becoming a caregiver. Another bill regarding driving while holding your phone at the same time. This bill is held up and will be brought back at another session.
- c. **Director's:** Jim passed out information for the month of August. The program committee has done a great job. The committee is interested in whatever program people would like to have. Marie noted that a program for disabled people, providing services for the whole community. Robin will check on deaf material to be handed out. Marybeth wondered if we could find a volunteer that could sign. It was also noted that evening programs are bringing in new people.
- d. **Treasurer's:** Jim passed out the FY20 budget account.
- e. **FOLOCA:** The meeting scheduled for September 10<sup>th</sup> was cancelled. FOLOCA did not meet over the summer.
- f. **GSSSI:** Fran noted that the quality insurance program was doing great. GSSSI has hired additional executives for various departments and it is working for the better.

**g. Building Committee:** Marybeth noted the project of the new center is going smoothly. People have commented on how well things are going with the construction. She also noted the warrant article for money due to the clean-up of the asbestos. Fran said she had heard rumors that things were going to be cut in our center. Marybeth could have a meeting in October to let people know how the construction is going. George noted that some people on the COA felt they didn't have much input toward the new center. Saul stated that each month at our meetings Marybeth would keep us up to date on the progress. Marybeth stated that once a month there is an open meeting of the building committee. The construction meetings are not open meetings. Marie noted that if we don't speak up we won't get what we want. Marybeth also stated that the nonprofit account is going along and Judy said we thank Marybeth for raising the money and will receive more information from her. Saul: Anyone who could not attend the building committee meeting, to ask Marybeth about the meeting. Julie: we need to have a forum to be ready once we are in the new building.

**h. Advocacy:** No news

**New Business:**

**a.** Rebecca spoke earlier in the meeting. Phil: regarding the search of the Town Manager. There were ten people on the committee. Twenty one applicants for the position. 104 pages that the committee had to read. Then it was cut to 8 people, 4 people very competent for the position. One of the 4 removed their name. The other 3 each did their homework regarding the town.

**b. Mission Statement:** Jim found the Mission Statement in our by-laws. A question of where did this statement come from? This could have come when the new charter was formed. The next meeting of the commission Jim should attend. Jim noted that we will abide by our by-laws regarding the Mission Statement.

**Old Business:**

**a. New Longmeadow Adult Center- Operational Plan and Goals:** The COA needs to plan ahead for the hours of operation in the new facility. More staff will be needed for both daytime and evening programs. Our hours are now 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. When new building is here: 8:00 am to 9:00 pm funding for 60 hours per week. We need 70 hours plus for janitorial staff. John wondered if we could charge for the use of the gym. Marybeth noted that this is a municipal building and fees will go back to the town. Fran: we could attend a select board meeting to request funds for these projects. Marybeth: We need to wait for the new town manager to be chosen. Rose: have we gotten any information from other local centers regarding these issues? Saul: with Park and Rec not being involved, we might need to hire an Assistant Director to help Jim. Jim: will work out hours and staffing, will report back to us next month. Marybeth: our new address will be 211 Maple Road. Both John Carey and Jim Russell way have been approved by the Select Board. Also, the grounds around the center we are currently in need to be cleaned up. We need to check with the garden club to see if they would come and help out.

c. **2019 Walk to end Alzheimer's:** Jim stated we have raised \$1,200 toward the walk.

A motion to change the time of the meetings from 9:00 am back to 9:30 am was passed. Our meeting will now start at 9:30 am.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectively submitted

Ellie Tyson, Secretary