

Council on Aging Board of Directors

February 17, 2022

Present: Assistant Director Lindsay Gill, Chair Rose Morace, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Saul Finestone, Sandra MacFadyen, Maryann Squier, Judy Yaffe, Eleanor Stolar, Jan Komaiszko, new member Ron Johnson.

Absent: Phil Hallahan, Marjorie Morgan, Julie Moulton, George Shea.

- I. **Welcome:** The meeting was called to order at 9:31 am. Rose was pleased the way people helped each other during the snow storms. Also, that anyone can apply to be a member of the COA Board by filling out an application and going before the select board. We value diversity on the board, she noted.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The January 30th minutes were approved.
- III. **Reports:**
 - a. **Select Board:** Tom Lachiusa, our liaison from the select board was on zoom. He said that there might be two seats vacant on the board. He stated that the select board values diversity as well. They are working on the budget for 2022 and hope it will have a 2% increase for all by February 22, 2022. They discussed overrides, the high school, DPW, and the Senior Center. He noted the town has done a good job of not spending too much money. Residents will be receiving a letter regarding the water purification in town. Also, baseball signs could be put up in the baseball parks around town. In terms of COVID, on the 10th of February there were 50 cases in Longmeadow. We asked Tom if he had discussed the “closet” with the board as well as road conditions in town. He did report that he submitted an article to the New York Times regarding mental issues today.
 - b. **State Representative:** There was no report as Robin was unable to attend the meeting.
 - c. **Directors:** Refer to pages 5-7. The center continues to grow. Carol, who teaches silver sneakers is leaving. However, a new instructor will be coming. Three classes will be offered; 9 am, 10 am, and 11 am. Judy noted that we also need times in the evenings for our seniors still working. Saul wondered if new positions will be needed for evenings. Lindsay said that outreach coordinator Julie Pearce has returned to the center. She is working 4 hours a day so far. A reminder that from 8 am- 4 pm the center is open for people 55 plus. Saul noted that one of the complaints he received was regarding cleanliness in the building. Another was having to pay \$10 a month for the use of the gym. We discussed bringing back the advocacy report. Anyone with a problem could report to that person and it would then be discussed at the COA meeting.
 - d. **Treasurers:** Refer to page 10.

- e. **FOLOCA:** Eleanor went to the meeting. FOLOCA is relying on sales from the car wash cards and from donations to FOLOCA from the citizens in town. She had also mentioned that we used to have a list of people who would help seniors needing services such as, yard work, electrical, plumbing, etc. This is something we should look into.

IV. **New Business:**

- a. **Welcome new Council on Aging Board members:** Sandy introduced our latest new member, Ron Johnson who was welcomed by the board.
- b. **Massachusetts Councils on Aging Board Development Workshop:** Will be April 15th. Kathy Bowler will conduct the program regarding how COA's operate. Rose spoke to our nurse Ashley, regarding questions about the "closet". She will check on it. Judy wondered where we would store medical equipment. Rose said there could be other places in town for storage. If need be a waiver could be signed in order to use anything from the "closet".

V. **Old Business:**

- a. **Adult Center staff update:** Lindsay noted that she is looking into the area of more programs in technology and is also working with the H.S. towards this goal. We appreciate all the work she has done and is continuing to do.
- b. **Operational Hours:** In March the center will begin a "soft opening" until 8:00 pm.
- c. **Programming Update:** Please refer to pages 5-6.
- d. **Outreach/Volunteer update:** No report.
- e. **Food Pantry Update:** Refer to page 7-8.

Saul wanted us to follow the by-laws regarding elections which will take place after the first meeting after July 1. After the regular meeting is adjourned, we than open the annual meeting for nomination for chair (if serving chair does not want her second year), vice chair and secretary.

- VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tyson