

Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

Remote Meeting

February 18, 2021

Present: Director Jim Leyden, Chair George Shea, Vice Chair Fran Miffitt, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Marybeth Bergeron, Saul Finestone, Rose Morace, Marge Morgan, Eleanor Stolar, Theresa Yesu, Outreach Coordinator Julie Pearce, and Program Coordinator Lindsay Gill.

Absent: John Bowen, Phil Hallahan, Marilyn Hurst, Jan Komaiszko, Julia Moulton, Judy Yaffe

Guest: Robin Frechette

- I. **Welcome:** George opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The January 21st minutes were approved. Rose's name was omitted on the present list and she was at the meeting last month.
- III. **Reports:**
 - a. **Select Board:** No one from the Select Board was available. George wondered who our representative from the select board was. Thomas Lachiusa is the representative.
 - b. **State Representative:** The vaccination roll out at Greenwood went smoothly. People will still be able to get the second dose at the center. They had to give back doses due to larger locations needing the vaccine. George noted it had not been a smooth roll out over all. Theresa wondered if anyone was taking care of homebound people. Robin stated it was not a streamline process at all. The towns would have a grasp on homebound people needing the shot. Saul asked who was helping and advising the Governor on this subject. Robin stated he has medical staff and the Department of Public Health, Secretary Sudders. Robin noted that hopefully politics is not an issue. Also noted in Elder Affairs, we now have a Senator Gomez from Western Massachusetts who is on this committee.
 - c. **Directors:** Jim passed out information sheets regarding programs. He noted 6 new Meals on Wheels recipients. This has really been a team effort and our thanks go out to the staff for keeping Meals on Wheels going.
 - d. **Treasurers:** Jim stated there are no issues going forward.
 - e. **FOLOCA:** Lindsey spoke with FOLOCA regarding programs that they have been taking care of. Also noted that Vanessa had moved down south to be close to relatives. We will miss her.
 - f. **LACCF:** Marybeth noted there have been 24 pieces of art work that have been named already and 4 new paintings have been donated to the center.
 - g. **GSSSI:** Fran said that most of what they are working on now has to do with COVID and the distribution of the vaccine. She also indicated that they were training student's from area colleges to help people make appointments for the vaccine.

- h. **Building Committee:** Things are proceeding. There was a delay in the flooring, but it is moving now. The end of March things will be completing and hopefully the staff can be in the building by the end of April. The furniture and fitness equipment have been ordered. Theresa wanted to thank Marybeth for all the hard work she has done getting donations for the new facility.
 - i. **Advocacy:** Nothing to report.
- IV. **New Business:**
- a. **AARP Tax Service:** It will be different this year; you will have an appointment to drive up to the center, drop off your tax information and you will be called when it is ready to be picked up. Marge wanted to thank Jim, Lindsey and Julie for their hard work and dedication to the seniors in town. George wonders why the Director's position at the center is not a salaried position. Marybeth gave support to Julie as her position is kind of "under the wire". Rose said that Longmeadow had been listed as one of the best places to retire and that we have wonderful people working for us.
 - b. **Annual Report:** Jim noted that a summary of everything done in 2020 has been sent to the town.
- V. **Old Business:**
- a. **Town of Longmeadow Vaccinations:** Discussed earlier.
 - b. **Meals on Wheels Route Delivery Change:** Also discussed earlier. All changes went smoothly on new routes. The drivers are happy with the changes. Theresa wondered if more drivers were needed. Julie stated they have enough drivers.
 - c. **Meals on Wheels Update:** Information Jim passed out.
 - d. **Food Pantry Update:** We are using the same operation as before; pick up is on Fridays. People are getting a good amount of nutrition. We would like to use the same system in the new building.
 - e. **Virtual Programming:** We have shifted to information regarding the vaccine more than programs at this time. A question was raised regarding a covering for the new van. Marybeth stated that the East Longmeadow option was out. There is no place at this time to keep the van under cover. Saul wondered if the van was being used now and Jim said it has not been. Marybeth also noted that once we move out and into our new building, the Town Manager has plans to move offices from the town into the space.
- VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tyson