

Council on Aging Board of Directors

March 17, 2022

Present: Director Jim Leydan, Assistant Director Lindsay Gill, Chair Rose Morace, Vice Chair Phil Hallahan, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Marie Angelides (on zoom), Saul Finestone, Ron Johnson, Jan Komaiszko, Sandra MacFadyen, Marjorie Morgan, Julia Moulton, Stephan Platzer, George Shea, Maryann Squier, Eleanor Stolar, Judy Yaffe, Tom Lachiusa select board liaison.

Guest: Robin Frechette

- I. **Welcome:** Meeting was called to order at 9:30am. Rose thanked Jim for providing coffee and Danish in the all-purpose room before the meeting. Jim would like to do this each month. Judy wondered why we couldn't have this upstairs. Jim said we were trying to be flexible on the subject but right now, trying not to have problems with spillage. Judy noted people who play cards, pool, etc. would like to be able to have coffee upstairs.
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** The February 17, 2022 minutes were approved.
- III. **Reports:**
 - a. **Select Board:** Tom announced that the center was recognized with a bronze medal for outstanding senior center from around the nation. He reported that Mark Strange has stepped down from the board and has taken a new position in another town. The board will continue as it is new. The budget and warrant are getting in shape for the town meeting. For summer positions, they are looking for lifeguards for the pools. He has not heard anything regarding the "closet" from the town manager. He received good feedback with the meetings monthly by Lynn. She is at the center the second Wednesday of every month for a question and answer period.
 - b. **State Representative:** The house will present the budget next month. There will be a 30% increase in grants. Jim noted that money from grants pays for our staff. Robin spoke to the importance of doing the census each year when it comes around. Rose wanted Robin to thank Brian Ashe for all the support he has given us.
 - c. **Directors:** Please refer to the COA department report and upcoming programs. Our hours at the center have been expanded from 8am to 8pm Monday through Friday and open Saturday from 9am to 1pm. The age is 55 +.
 - d. **Treasurers:** Please refer to the March treasurer's report. Jim noted that we are doing ok with our new budget and are financially in a good spot.
 - e. **FOLOCA:** Eleanor said there was no meeting for this month. The meetings are now being held here in the center. They are selling the car wash tickets and receiving donations from Longmeadow residents.

IV. **New Business:**

- a. **COA advisors:** Maryann regarding the outreach program; Jim passed out a list of names of service providers for seniors. In the past years we did have such a list available to us. Phil noted that the home business association could check on their insurances if need be. It was also stated that there are blogs online, which could assist seniors; however, not everyone has computers to connect to blogs.
- b. **Other:** A question whether to meet during the summer. We will discuss it at the next meeting. The by-laws state no meetings June, July and August.

V. **Old Business:**

- a. **Massachusetts Councils on aging board workshop:** On the 21st of April there will be the COA workshop with Kathy Bowler.
- b. **Adult Center staff update:** Two new program assistants for the 4-8 events are Karen Barrett and Christine Sangkachand. Our outreach/volunteer Julie Pearce is back and Torrie, who has been in this position, will be leaving us.
- c. **Operational hours:** Monday through Friday 8am-8pm. Our custodians are Hector 8am-4pm and Angel 4pm-8pm.
- d. **Programming update:** Please check in our packet for update.
- e. **Outreach/Volunteer update:** Also in our packet.
- f. **Food Pantry update:** Refer to packet. Marge wondered if people in town knew about the pantry. Lindsay stated it was advertised in the voice. There has been an increase of 30%. Fifty two households to mid-80's.

A suggestion to do something for Ukraine. Marge will check with the church involved and get back to us as to needs. Rose mentioned she was requested to have an interview with Brian Ashe and Marybeth. She declined and wanted more information regarding the interview. She also spoke of seniors in town having problems signing up for programs. Now there are specific days for Longmeadow people to sign before out of town people can register.

- VI. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elizabeth Tyson