

Council on Aging Board of Directors Remote Meeting

April 15, 2021

Present: Director Jim Leyden, Chair George Shea, Vice Chair Fran Miffitt, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Marybeth Bergeron, Saul Finestone, Jan Komaiszko, Rose Morace, Eleanor Stolar, Judy Yaffe, Theresa Yesu

Guest: Robin Frechette

Absent: John Bowen, Phil Hallahan, Marjorie Morgan, Julia Moulton, Theresa Yesu.

Welcome: George opened the meeting at 9:30am.

Approval of Minutes: Saul wanted to include COA board of Directors in section C Director's report. Also, the third line down under Director's, the word she instead of he. The April 15th minutes were then approved.

Reports:

Select Board: There was no liaison from the select board available.

State Representative: Robin stated the house presented its budget yesterday at a total of \$47,065 billion dollars. There will be no tax hikes to individuals, and does not cut any services. Bills were moved out into committees. The 47 billion does not include the 4.5 billion in Federal Aid coming to the state. A program S415 which is to improve Alzheimer's and Dementia care in senior care option program. Also, H730 separating non-elder handy care with disabled housing from elder housing. Marybeth wondered what was meant by handy-care person. Robin will report back at our May meeting. Judy noted that there was a bill to train people in order to help those with dementia. She is also involved with the "Walk to end Alzheimer's".

Director's: Jim spoke regarding the department report for March 2021. This included wellness calls and follow up calls as needed by COA employees. People are pleased with the food and deliveries. We have a great team for getting Meals on Wheels out to people. Saul asked how many people would be needed for the new building. Jim; we would need more volunteers for different areas in the building. He mentioned during lunch, some new people feel that there are tables that people want to sit with friends only. Marybeth suggested it might be a help to have a hostess during lunches. George also said that COA members should plan on having lunches at the center during the month. Robin noted that if we needed volunteers to check out the Key Club at the High School.

Treasurer's Report: Jim said that we have a healthy balance. George wondered where we were in hiring a full-time clerk. Judy had a question if the outside pickle ball courts could be used now. Marybeth said not as yet as the building has not been turned over to the town. There are still areas in the parking lot that need to be fixed.

FOLOCA: They have not had any meetings at this time. George wondered where the money would come from for the programs without the Maple Tree Shop. Marybeth noted there was adequate support to run new programs. Rose said May 8th the Maple Tree Store will be having a close-out sale. Saul noted that the LACCF is also still collecting donations for the center. Judy: we as a board have to start being a little creative on raising funds. The board on its own cannot fund raise.

LACCF: We are getting sponsors for art work in the new building.

GSSSI: Their meeting is next Wednesday. Fran will have information at our May meeting.

Building Committee: The building is coming along. There is still quite a bit of outside work to be done. It was noted that meeting in person as a group would not be until June. Fran wondered if they were having the camp this summer. Marybeth: the plan is to open the pool and run the camp. There could be a temporary issue to allow staff to move into the building before being open to the public.

Advocacy: There is nothing new to report.

New Business:

- a. **Upcoming COA board meeting:** a question of getting together in person for our next meeting. It will be up to the Town Manager and will not be until June. George noted we might not have summer meeting unless warranted.
- b. **New Adult Center hours of Operation:** Jim stated at this time that nothing is set in stone. The hours might be open 8-4pm Monday through Friday, 6pm-9pm in the evening for the community. Also, the possibility of being open on Saturday for different functions. George had a question regarding our van. He had not seen it where it was supposed to be parked. Jim: the van had been taken out for an oil change and an up-keep. During the inspection some wires were found to have been chewed and had to be replaced. They will have to park in a different location. Marybeth said she hopes the van can be housed during the winter months in the new DPW building. George also noted that while Jim and Lindsey have been away, Julie has been doing a great job by herself.
- c. **Program Fees:** We will be looking into fees charging for different programs, but not a big change. Also, looking into charging non-resident fees and the use of the gym for basketball, pickleball, etc. We have to figure a fee structure.
- d. **COA Board Member Nominations:** Saul announced to the board anyone who is interested in the chair position to please contact Saul, Eleanor or Ellie. The new slate will be the first meeting after July 1, 2021. If we do not have a summer meeting it will be after September 1st.
- e. **Removal of Items from Adult Center:** Jim asked that if anyone had anything stored in the old building, it has to be removed at this time.

Old Business:

- a. Town of Longmeadow Vaccinations: Center staff and volunteers assisted hundreds of older adults in the community in scheduling vaccine appointments.
- b. AARP tax service: refer to page 6.
- c. COA Clerk: no discussion.
- d. Meals on wheels update: refer to page 4.
- e. Food pantry update: refer to page 5. Fran wondered if donations were needed for the pantry. Jim said we can always use any donations and a box is outside the entrance to the center for these donations.
- f. Virtual programming: refer to department report.

Adjournment: The meeting ended at 10:39am.

Respectfully submitted:

Elizabeth Tyson