

## Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

September 17, 2020

**Present:** Director Jim Leyden, Chair George Shea, Vice Chair Fran Miffitt, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Phil Hallahan, Marybeth Bergeron, Saul Finestone, Rose Morace, Marjorie Morgan, Judy Yaffe, Theresa Yesu, John Bowen, all on ZOOM; Eleanor Stolar on the phone.

**Guest:** Robin Frechette

**Absent:** Jan Komaiszko, Julia Moulton, Marilyn Hurst

**Welcome:** George called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Saul noted that the annual meeting was due to select the new slate of officers which were George Shea chair, Fran Miffitt, vice chair and Ellie Tyson secretary. There were no new nominations- the slate remains as is. A vote was cast and approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** The February minutes were approved.

### **Reports:**

**Select Board:** No one available.

**State Representative:** Robin noted that the state legislature normally ends session in July, but they were unable to address a number of bills as well as the FY21 budget so the session was extended to the end of the year. There are 4 high profile bills in conference which include Police reform, Economic Development, Healthcare (Patients first) and Environmental.

**Director's:** Jim stated that it was important that we were all together and everyone was doing well. Information had been sent out on the revolving accounts and department reports. Saul wondered how we got the volunteers to deliver meals during this time? Jim stated we are using our core volunteers; if we didn't have these it would certainly be tough. They are still delivering food for 5 days a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Volunteers are also still operating the food bank.

**Treasurer's Report:** Jim sent out September Treasurer's report. Line items are fine. They are looking for someone to take Erin's position, it will be posted again.

**FOLOCA:** Donated \$30,000 to the new building. Marybeth took members of FOLOCA on a tour. Rose referred to proposals concerning the gift shop and George wondered if there was space in the new building. Many people are concerned that it will not be in the new center. Rose called it a "watering hole" for many older seniors as it brings people together but also supports and pays for many of our programs thru FOLOCA. Saul noted this is just a discussion- not a motion. Marge suggested "it should be like a program" in the new center. She supported trying it out as a program. Judy noted that this discussion has gone on for a year and was decided that it would stay where it is. The café as well as the library would take up socialization. John noted there was no space for the shop and was opposed to having it there. Marybeth will be having a virtual tour of the new building on the 29<sup>th</sup> of September and hopes we can all watch. Some space has been "cut down". The town approved 14 million; at that time the shop was eliminated and some of the original areas have had to be modified. It was noted that the town manager is in charge of all town buildings including our center. Eleanor said that we need the store in the new center, but Fran said not to give up any more space to include the shop. George had heard that the store will not be able to remain where it is now. Neither Jim nor Marybeth had been

informed of this as yet. Rose reminded us that the shop brought in money for programs. Theresa noted that the new town manager has the last word. Marge said: maybe not important, but it does give many seniors a chance to shop for things that are not expensive, but gives pleasure to buy. Saul: my opinion, do not remove space from the library. Marybeth: the library is also a gathering place; it will have tables, chairs, etc., with two-sided fireplace. A question to George about the old building space; he noted that an email from Steve Kennedy was sent out and there were no plans for any town office to remain in the old building. Judy noted that this was decided way back, not to have the shop in the new building. John: this shop is a used clothing and used gift shop. If in the new building it should be new things. George; a motion to vote on the new building to include the shop. Seconded. Fran noted that it was a non-binding vote just our opinion. Yes vote – 4 yes, No vote – 7 no.

**GSSSI:** Fran: a meeting was held 9-16-2020. Having difficulty finding and filling staff. They are starting to open up and visiting homes. Received a reward for a nutrition program “Grab and Go”.

**Building Committee:** Marybeth, the building is looking great. Approval was made for the outside courts. The opening of the building could be before 2021, but not an exact date as yet. Jim and I are very busy- this has been a lot of work!

**Advocacy:** Not available.

#### **New Business:**

- a. **Meals on wheels update:** Jim supplied a current update on Meals on wheels. Very impressed with the kitchen staff.
- b. **Food Pantry update:** Same update on pantry. Marybeth stated there was a community wide effort. There is a drop box at the Big Y for donations. We provide for 80 residents in Longmeadow.
- c. **Virtual Programming:** Also, a report for August 2020. Using ZOOM or Facebook. Lindsey is doing a great job and is deserving of a lot of credit.
- d. **Outreach Coordinator Position:** Went thru the first round of interviews; no decision as yet. Will repost the position next week. Marge wondered how many hours for the position- Jim noted 36 hours.
- e. **COA Furloughs:** There are 2 receptionists who have been furloughed until the end of January. Lindsey and Jim handle all calls into center. So far, they are able to manage.
- f. **Real Estate Tax Abatement Program:** This program is still being offered. A participant would work in a town office for 125 hours, for a percentage removed from their taxes.
- g. **Home Modification Program:** A report was sent to all.

#### **Old Business:**

**FY 2021 Budget:** Jim noted that so far things are going ok.

**New Longmeadow Adult Center Strategic Plan and Goals:** Phil: the last meeting was 3-12-2020. The concentration was on financial and sustainability. Income analysis was: 1. Operations, 2. Grants and 3. Gifts.

Open questions from 1-23-2020 with Lyn Simmons, Town Manager were:

1. Who will be property manager?

2. What are the hours of operations?
3. Procedure on private rentals?
4. Hours of operation in center?

**Adjournment:** 11:05a.m.