

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting
Scituate Senior Center, 333 First Parish Road
November 9, 2021, 5:30 p.m.

In attendance: J.D. Miller, Chair; Susan Drevitch Kelly, Vice-Chair; Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director; Marie Fricker, Board member; Laurie Brady, Board member; Deirdre Dwyer, Board Member; Pat Carleton, Board member, and Barbara McFadden, Associate Board member.

Report from the Director

Linda Hayes reported that the senior center is at full staff now. She hired a new transportation coordinator, Lillian Cruz, and a new outreach coordinator, Erin Lamont. Both women will attend the Board meeting next month.

Staff members had been keeping the transportation program afloat, but it was a big job requiring scheduling, people skills, coordinating local rides, out-of-town transportation, and people just trying to get to and from classes and lunches at the center. More than 200 rides were provided in October.

Linda mentioned that the senior center had served as a charging station and warming place for people without electricity to spend the day during the October 27th nor'easter and its aftermath of town-wide power outages. "We served lots of coffee on those first two days and most activities went on as planned by Thursday," she said. "The biggest hurdle was the cell phone service, which was pretty spotty, and there was still no internet."

Hot lunches for those who had previously signed up were provided during the "charging station" days with a usual attendance of about 30 people. Residents who were at the center to charge their phones were also offered cold sandwiches for lunch. We also were able to provide some lunch on Wednesday for emergency personnel who were working during the aftermath of the storm.

Linda reported that lunch numbers were a little down for the month of October, but there is often a wait list while registering around 40-48 people for daily lunches. She applauded the volunteer team that provides wait service and cleanup for the lunches.

She mentioned that many seniors rely on the \$5 midday meals for socialization and physical health. A good number of men who might not cook for themselves at home, come often for a hearty lunch at the center. Linda asked that people be considerate of others by canceling their reservation early if they can't attend, so that people on the wait list can be called to take their places.

Chef Fred is in need of a regular, part-time assistant. The volunteers will continue working the front of the house and the café, but we are looking into a paid position to be created to assist in the kitchen and with volunteers on a daily basis.

Linda reported that a new art display wall will go up soon in the main corridor, made up of contributions from local Scituate senior artists. A Coastal Printmakers exhibition will run at the center from November 15 to the end of December.

The Rotary Club will host its fundraising dinner in the banquet hall on November 10 featuring a performance called "Lines of Fire." On the next day, the American Legion's Veteran's Day luncheon will draw 90 guests to the hall. The Scituate Food Pantry is sponsoring a live band on the patio featuring Soldiers' Songs and Voices, and the Veteran's lunch will follow at 2:30 p.m. On Thursday, November 18, the center's Thanksgiving luncheon with turkey and all the fixings will draw a larger number of patrons to the center for lunch.

In other news ... Linda reported that we have four drivers currently for the center's transportation service. SHINE counselors are scheduled to counsel through the Open Enrollment period and people are encouraged to drop off Medicare Part D forms and the counselors will research plans for them. A representative from State Senator Patrick O'Connor's office visits the center monthly on the third Thursday of the month. Appointments need to be made for meeting with Rep Kearney at the center. Badminton will be starting again at the Jenkins School on Wednesday evenings. Bob Jackman's classes are highly enrolled with 45 people in the current session, so he will offer two sessions for his next series.

A total of **2,478** seniors visited the center in the month of October, which was up a little from September. More activity and more check-ins have been occurring daily. Classes have been well attended.

Linda said the pool table has become popular and that people need to reserve time slots on it just as they do their half-hour sessions on the cardio equipment.

The issue of parking problems was discussed, since some classes run concurrently and the 70-space lot is not always able to accommodate all cars during overlap of activities. When the parking lots are full, people are directed to the lot behind the B wing as well as to the 23 spaces in front of the Recreation Department off of Cudworth, which has a paved walkway to the center. A proposal will be reviewed after 6 months in February for an additional 16 spaces.

The Town nurse is on-site twice a month on Wednesdays. The reflexology and chair massage appointments have become popular, and they are still looking for someone to provide footcare. The Friends of Scituate Seniors donated a massage/reflexology table to the center. FOSS also pays for the coffee, which is free to guests, provides the flower arrangements in the rest rooms, and volunteers at lunches and special events.

Linda expressed her gratitude to FOSS and to all the volunteers who help to make the center an ongoing success for our seniors.

Her goals for the future include the establishment of a memory care café or respite for caregivers and patients.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.