

Council on Aging Board Meeting - Thursday, October 10, 2019

Call to order - 6:30

Attendance - Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Janice Lindblom, Leslie James, Henry Yeh and Janice Desmond. In addition, Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director, Joan Powers, South Shore Elder Services liaison and Karen Canfield liaison to Board of Selectmen. In addition, Steve Kirby, OPM for Senior Center Project, from Vortex was a guest.

Absent Board Members were Lucille Sorrentino and Caitlin Coyle and Elaine Schembari, liaison to FOSS.

The minutes for the September 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Director's report:

- GATRA executive director appointment decision is pending. Final 2 candidates did not work out and a 3rd candidate re-interviewed and an offer has been extended. Awaiting candidate's decision.
- On 9/17/19, Linda presented the final revisions to the COA Board Policies to the BOS and these were approved. The COA changes will be on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on 11/5/19.
- The COA has a SHINE counselor volunteering through November and Scituate COA is waiting for a new volunteer that may be available.
- The first 'Coastal Contact' e-mail went out last Friday, 10/4/19, to all Scituate COA contacts. The distribution list is quite long.
- Linda attended 2 days of the MCOA conference in Danvers and found it was excellent
- Scituate's Town Administrator, Jim Boudreau, was the guest speaker at the monthly men's breakfast held in September. He discussed his background, the Senior Center, the Cedar Point sewerage issue, the complexity of the groundwater situation and a 5 year plan to address. He also discussed various issues impacting the town, including the sewer issues in No. Scituate and the new dog park.
- Linda is working on the formula grant budget and will be working on the municipal budget beginning next week.
- September was Fall Prevention Awareness month and Scituate COA received MCOA funding for this. SCTV taped a session of a Tai Chi class in relation to this. There were also interviews done for the taping. This will be run on SCTV for public awareness. The COA will continue programs aimed at preventing falls in older adults.
- A new session of Tai Chi started recently with 20 participants. This program addresses balance issues.
- This past Sunday, 10/6/19, the 2nd Family Fun walk was held. There were a few more participants than last year and 3 donations were received. Linda was able to give out t-shirts and wrist bands that were made up. Nona's ice cream was also there.
- A water colors painting class began on Mondays with Joanne.
- Annual Open Enrollment for Medicare begins on 10/5/19 through 12/7/19. An information session will be held at the Senior Center on 10/29/19 to provide information and answer questions.

- A Lifestyle panel will be held on 11/5/19 at the Senior Center.
- The Thanksgiving luncheon will be held at the River Club on Sunday, 11/15/19 at 1:30PM with music provided. Currently 115 people have registered. This is provided courtesy of The River Club.
- Age Friendly Steering Committee met in September and have some steps forward:
 - "Live Well Scituate, a Community for All Ages" will be the group's name or trademark
 - An action plan is needed by next Spring and Caitlin Coyle has met with AARP as a step in developing the plan.
 - Postcards with 3-4 questions will be send out to the community to solicit assessment
 - Listening session will be done with existing groups in town who meet regularly
- A Planning Board Meeting was held on 9/24/19 where the conditions of the Planning Board's approval of the Senior Center project were reviewed and discussed with Steve Kirby, the OPM. He described for the committee the bid process which is next step in the process.
- Linda also noted that she met with Jessie Finnie from the Scituate Library to consider a process for room naming for the new Senior Center. A fundraiser process may be used to name the rooms and it would be determined how to determine how to proceed with that possibility. The Library did a similar approach when the new library was being built.
- The need for senior centers to re-brand was discussed in one of Linda's MCOA meetings. Many senior centers have re-branded their name to be more community-focused. This will need to be considered before signage is finalized.
- Linda is writing a Cultural Council Grant to either fund an Irish night or a Beatles cover band to come for a performance.

Transportation:

- Transportation program continues to go very well.
- COA is down 1 driver and is interviewing for a part time driver.
- The need for Medical transportation is higher in recent months.

Outreach:

- Jenny Gerbis met with 45 people covering 65 services and 84 interactions over the past month.
- She goes out to each of the Housing Authorities (4) every month.

Programs:

- The Art Appreciation class is running monthly and has been very well attended.
- Walking group and trail walking groups are going well.
- A new Book Club called the 'No Rules Book Club" kicked off and will be meeting on 10/16/19.
- A new writing group started focusing on 'telling your story'.
- Trips are on the rise and popular. This is true across all senior centers. While trips can be labor intensive, they are popular and sell out quickly.
- The Lobsters & Mobsters trip to Boston was a big hit and was a combined trip with Norwell and Cohasset.

- Scituate 50+ Networking group is underway.

Linda also reported that a ping pong table is available and a baby grand piano has been offered as a donation for the new Senior Center. She will work with the Town Administrator to determine how to accept these and store them until center is built.

Guest Speaker report:

Steve Kirby provided an update on the Senior Center project:

- From June until August the design team planned for the 1st Planning Board meeting held in August. This work continued until the 9/12 Planning Board meeting to address all of the comments received in the first meeting. At the 9/12 Planning Board meeting the project was passed in a 3 to 2 vote. At that time some additional items were added to their list of items needed to be addressed - specifically related to the wall that was to be taken down to open a new drive.
- In addition, site lighting for the overflow parking lot was requested.
- The Planning Board had concerns about the location of the generator. It was determined under the zoning board rules that this item did not need to go before the zoning board.
- On 9/20/19 the amended final approval was given by the Planning Board.
- During this period, the architect has continued amending the plans for the senior center based on the Planning Board's requests.
- These additional changes have not increased the cost of the building to be greater than \$10M dollars requiring additional permits must be granted under Commonwealth of MA construction law and practices. With this, all contractors must be pre-qualified under these rules.
- As of 10/16/19 - all bidders will get RFP details and will be able to do electronic bidding. On 10/24/19 a bidder's walk-through will be conducted. Bidders do not have to do the walk-through, it is optional. Bids (sub-bids/sub-contractors) are due on 11/6/19 and these are then given to contractors. There must be 3 qualified bidders in each trade category with a few exceptions. General contractor bids are due on 11/20/19. These will then be reviewed. By 12/19/19, the contract will be awarded and the general contractor will have 365 days to complete the project.
- There will be a need for some planning with the recreation department to allow for programs to continue during construction.
- A recent issue has arisen that a lawsuit was filed by the abutters stating that the planning board violated a zoning rule in approving the project. This relates to trading safety in some capacity. This is being addressed by town counsel and will not delay the bid process.

Liaison Reports:

1. Karen Canfield reported for BOS:

- The Town Meeting will be held on 11/5/19 and the warrant has been closed for that.
- The 2020 budget process has kicked off.
- Applications for a Charter Review Committee are being taken. This was last done in 1995. At this time a Committee is being formed instead of a Commission. This is a 1 year commitment and could trigger a need for a Commission to be formed but BOS has decided to start with a Committee.

- The BOS has interviewed 7 candidates for the 2 open positions on the COA Board. There are many talented candidates. Those positions will be appointed at the next BOS meeting on 10/15/19.
2. Joan Powers reported on SSES:
- A SSES meeting was held on 10/1/19 where a financial report was given. It was reported that South Shore VNA has terminated services with SSES. There was a lengthy discussion on this.
 - Efforts are being made to have workers get to know one another better and will be having a Holiday Party for them.
 - SSES is working with Veterans services to help veterans to complete paper work.
 - The State is working to increase salaries of home health aides which is an issue as there is a shortage due to low salaries and there is large turnover of employees. Most nursing homes do not have enough help.
 - More help continues to be needed for Meals on Wheels, especially in Winter months when many volunteers go away to warmer climates. There was some discussion on the Meals on Wheels program being housed in the new Senior Center once built and there would be opportunity for more volunteers through the Senior Center.
 - One of the SSES board members is an attorney who works with seniors and discussed at meeting a new bill related to pooled trusts for disabled seniors. Joan provided information on this to group.
 - The October community dinner at St. Luke's, which is a turkey dinner, is being hosted by Rotary Club. This will be on 10/27/19 at 5 PM.
3. Gordon Price reported on the FOSS Capital Campaign Committee:
- Elaine Shembari is heading up collections to be held at the landfill for the new Senior Center this upcoming weekend.
 - 2,300 letters were sent out to all 70 1/2 and older residents to solicit donations made through their retirement accounts which is tax free. This is showing some return already.
 - 6,000 homes, which is the remaining residents, will be receiving a piece of mail by end of October or early November to solicit donations.
 - A Groundbreaking ceremony is important to gaining momentum for donations as some people are hesitant to contribute until they see some progress in the new Senior Center being built. Linda is also planning to have an event around this.
 - Naming opportunities will be part of fund raising efforts. More on this later.
 - The Capital Campaign will run for 1 year.
 - The Calendar is coming together. There are 15 subjects and Jerry Klimek is doing the photography.
 - The Committee is discussing a Spring Gala event with Linda Hayes. The River Club has only 1 day left in May. The Barker has more dates available but is more expensive. The event is likely to be at The River Club in May.
 - Meetings of the Campaign Committee continue to be held Tuesdays at 9:30AM at Harbor Methodist Church.

Other business:

- Officer Nominations were held for the upcoming term:
 - Janice Desmond was nominated for Vice-Chairman and accepted.

- JD Miller was nominated to continue as Chairman for the remainder of the fiscal year and accepted.
- Leslie James was nominated for co-Secretary and accepted. Another co-Secretary will be sought and nominated at the next meeting when the two new Board members will be newly appointed and in attendance.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.