

Scituate Council on Aging Board Meeting - September 19, 2019

Call to order - 5:30 pm

Attendance - Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Lucille Sorrentino, Janice Lindblom, Caitlin Coyle, Leslie James, Henry Yeh and Janice Desmond. In addition, Linda, Hayes, Senior Center Director, Jenny Gerbis, Senior Center Outreach Coordinator, Joan Powers, South Shore Elder Services liaison and Elaine Schembari, FOSS liaison. Karen Canfield, liaison to Board of Selectmen was absent.

The minutes for the August 2019 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Director's report:

- GATRA has 2 final external candidates. Currently background checks are being conducted and the finalist will be named soon.
- Linda attended the MCOA Regional Meeting on 9/5/19. One of the topics was an effort to combine age-friendly and dementia-friendly initiatives.
- By-law revisions were presented by Linda and Janice Desmond to the BOS on 9/3/19. General by-law revisions were approved and are on the warrant for the November Town Meeting.
- Scituate COA has 1 and maybe 2 new SHINE counselors to replace Norman.
- Scituate Fire Department is continuing its partnership with COA to come into homes and inspect and replace obsolete Smoke/CO detectors. This is under a state run program.
- Exercise class rates have been updated.
- The 50+ Job Seekers Networking Group started again on 9/11/19 at the Scituate Library.
- Fall Prevention Awareness month is September. MCOA provided funding for a Fall Prevention program.
- Linda is again organizing the Family Fund Walk on 10/6/19 at 11AM for a 1 and 2 mile walk from the Scituate Community Building.
- On 11/5/19 a 'Lifestyle Panel' is planned for issues related to 'what keep you up at night'? There will be a few people from the community who are being lined up to speak.
- On 11/17/19 the Thanksgiving luncheon will be held at The River Club with a 4-piece band. Reservations are being taken at the Senior Center.
- Linda is working to confirm a date for the next Age Friendly Steering Committee meeting which will likely be in November. The Committee is planning to hold group listening sessions in the Fall to understand community issues related to living as a senior in Scituate.
- The 2nd Planning Board meeting to discuss the new Senior Center building is being held on 9/12/19 at 7PM. There are strong concerns about parking capacity.

Outreach:

- Jenny Gerbis reported on outreach and noted that August had been a good month.
- Farmer's Market coupons were received and the COA was able to obtain additional coupons which are good at South Shore Farmer's Markets as well as Holly Hills Farm. For the amount of dollars spent at farmer's markets, an equal amount is rolled into SNAP food stamps and money is taken off of National Grid bills.

- Jenny reported that fuel assistance is kicking off through the SS Community Action Council.
- Caitlin Coyle raised a question about the Elder at Risk program, for which Jenny walked her through the services provided.
- Linda reviewed the transportation numbers presented in her report. She noted that the COA van was used for an out-of-town medical trip to Quincy once over last month for a client.
- Linda reported on 52 attendees at the lobster lunch held in August.

Liaison Reports:

1. Joan Powers reported on SSES:
 - A SSES meeting was held on 9/3/19. SSES now includes private insurance clients as home services are much more economical than moving a client to a nursing home.
 - The picnic at Nantasket Beach was held on 8/15/19. It was a beautiful day and the picnic was lovely but many people who registered were no show which was unfortunate.
 - Volunteers continue to be needed for the Meals on Wheels program in Scituate.
 - The SSES annual meeting will be held on 9/20/19. St. Luke's monthly dinner will be held on 9/22/19. It is always the 4th Sunday of each month. Last month at least 55 people attended.
2. Elaine Schembari reported on FOSS:
 - The FOSS fashion show will be held on Saturday, 9/28/19 from 1-3PM at St. Mary's hall. There are tickets still available but in low quantity.
 - tickets are being sold for Trivia night on 10/18/19.
 - The Christmas fair is upcoming on 11/20/19 at St. Mary's hall.
 - FOSS is hoping to hold some of these annual events at the new Senior Center going forward.
3. Gordon Price reported on the FOSS Capital Campaign Committee:
 - A letter will be going out to all 70 1/2 and older residents to solicit donations through their retirement accounts which is tax free.
 - Slow strides have been made on the Calendar the Committee is putting together. They are looking for a photographer at a reduced prices and hope to have the calendar available mid-late October. More gentlemen are needed to pose for the monthly pictures.
 - The Committee may do a gala type event in late April to May.
 - Once construction begins on the new building, a groundbreaking event will be planned.
 - FOSS & Capital Campaign Committee will be collecting at the Transfer Station in Oct.
 - JD Miller suggested adding a flyer to the quarterly tax bill as a way to solicit contributions.

Other business:

- One of the changes to the new COA procedures/by-laws is to move the start of the Board meetings to 6:30PM beginning in October, 2019.
- Caitlin Coyle resigned as co-secretary to the COA Board and Janice Desmond volunteered to assume the role full-time.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40PM.