

Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, August 13, 2020

Call to order - 5:30 pm

Virtual meeting: Seth is recording for Scituate TV.

Attendance - Board Members: JD Miller (JD), Chair, Janice Desmond (Vice Co-Chair), Janice Lindblom, Lucille Sorrentino, Caitlin Coyle, Maud Meulstee, Leslie James. In addition: Karen Canfield (liason to Scituate BOS), Linda Hayes (LH), Senior Center Director; Joan Powers (liaison to South Shore Elder Services); Elaine Shembari (liaison to FOSS) were present, Gordon Price (BAC liaison joined).

Absent Board Members: Susan Kelley

There were no meeting notes at this time from June 2020 meeting to approve. There was no meeting July 2020.

Director's report:

General/Office:

- Trying to keep communication channels open. We have been busy.
- Survey will go up on the website soon.
- Electric payment page is ready to be tested via Scituate Treasurer website. This will be useful to sign up for fitness classes.
- Submitting newsletter for Sept/Oct tomorrow, we have some items scheduled for future, mainly virtual. JD: Better to do the Constant Contact emails with updates esp. as thing may change with Covid.
- Transportation has continued, regular clearing, only 4 riders at a time. Continuing medical rides for ex. for dialysis and medication pickups. JD: do we need to call for volunteers to sign up? LH: we are getting them through Sands, have not called for them ourselves.
- We had a fine outdoor, grab-and-go lunch for the volunteers at Cole Pkwy.
- Birthday calls: we did June, July, not August yet. Caitlin: in other towns, they use the town census list and when people turn 60, they call them.
- Food assistance: no lunch yet, too much effort at this time. We distributed 20 food boxes x 2 (June and August). They are USDA boxes, through SSES.
- Housing Authority: 30 units of Lawson Green Apartments coming up for lottery. The link on the Town website will start this Monday. Two-tier rental amounts.

- SHINE: Elaine Shembari will be the next volunteer;
- Lots of beach pass requests; have 2 to give out.

Programs update:

- Continued activities on Zoom: yoga, chair yoga, Bob Jackman's weekly classes, men's breakfast monthly, weekly coffee discussions. CC: do you select topics ahead of time?
- Upcoming activities: anti-ageism discussion in state of MA
Memory café for dementia and caregivers,
Sept 28 national neighbor day
Birding – outdoor program at Mass Audubon

Senior Center Project:

- Progress report: planting will start this fall, 2 trees thought to be coming down, roofing, windows, shades, furniture, fixtures and equipment.
- CC: Moving forward, it is important that people can participate via Zoom. JD: agreed.
- Contingencies re Covid pandemic: upgrading HVAC system with UV lighting as recommended, not using HIPPA filters – they restrict air flow. How to open door: used to be push button, now sensor. Looking at audio-visual systems for hearing impaired.
- Issues with traffic/island and extra parking: paid from contingency \$.
- Scituate resident who owns furniture company (ORI), wants to participate in bid. He gave very competitive bid for the library and Gates building.

Liaison Reports:

Karen Canfield (BOS):

- Scituate Senior Center: Signage informal ok: Scituate Senior Center. Naming of rooms: we need to talk with architect soon re inside buildings. Library inside is standardized with signs and spots for plaques. Falmouth is calling the rooms by local beaches; we can do the same or landmarks or areas of town. Question: did the Design Review Committee get involved in interior design? LH: only for outside. We discussed it in the subcommittee.
- BOS Meeting this Thursday.
- Food Pantry numbers are soaring due to Covid, looking for a home.
- Tuesday is 100-years since suffrage movement/vote for women. Scituate was prominent.
- 11 November Town Meeting: Diversity committee will start.
- Scituate Master Plan almost at finish line, will start again Sept.

Joan Powers, South Shore Elder Services:

All services have continued, including Meals on Wheels.

Elaine Schembari, FOSS and FOSS Capital Committee:

There have been no meetings, but we have made several donations. She will try to set up a meeting with President and VP, to work on donations for Senior Center. KC: Naming rooms in the Senior Center is an opportunity to raise funds, we need to have a meeting soon. Elaine has completed her training for becoming a volunteer SHINE Counselor.

- Gordon Price (Chair of FOSS Capital Committee) via video: Things have been sort of quiet. I have been taking with Steve to do a soft sell via social media; we don't have the manpower to knock on doors. We want to use the money raised to reduce the debt on the Senior Center, as we discussed at the Town Meeting. However, FOSS wants to use any funds raised to sponsor programs at the Senior Center. I have met some folks who are very excited about naming opportunities. FOSS currently has a bit less than \$30k available. We don't live in a community with a lot of businesses to target, mostly residential.

Age-Friendly Steering Committee, Caitlin Coyle:

It has been almost 2 years since Scituate was accepted at WHO with an Age-friendly designation. We had a Steering Committee last year. Draft is finished; action plan expected by the end of September. We will collect feedback then review, then share with BOS. I would like to put it up for public comment. After we submit the report to WHO, we have three years to implement changes. We tried to include items that are feasible and doable. The timing is great: a new Master Plan and a new Senior Center: great synergies. JD: let's also remember inclusion and diversity.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.50 PM.

Notes taken and edited by Maud Meulstee.