

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting
Scituate Senior Center, 333 First Parish Road
August 12, 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; Leslie James, Board member; Janice Lindblom, Board member; Elaine Schembari, Liaison for Friends of Scituate Seniors; Laurie Brady, Board member; Barbara McFadden, Associate Board member; Joan Powers, Liaison to South Shore Elder Services, and Gordon Price, Build-A-Campus.

Report from the Director

Linda Hayes reported that in the month of August, the new Scituate Senior Center was fully operational with the exception of the lunch program, which will start on September 2nd with a barbecue luncheon. Subsequently, the lunches will be offered Monday through Thursday each week for a fee of \$5.00 per meal.

Lunch menus will be advertised each week in the Mariner and guests should RSVP every day for the lunch on the following day. Among the newly hired chef's upcoming specialties are shrimp scampi, spaghetti and meatballs, barbecue chicken, lasagna, chicken marsala, and much more. A café window will also offer a soup or sandwich of the day, muffins, yogurt or snacks.

Linda told the Board that the center is seeking qualified van/bus drivers for transporting seniors to medical appointments grocery shopping, and other errands. She said the center's new custom-built van had been delivered and was pending registration. Volunteer Parking lot monitors are still in place and speed bumps may be added due to the high volume of cars entering and exiting the lot.

Linda said all classes at the center have been well attended with high enrollment and even waiting lists on some offerings. Sue, the instructor of the highly popular balance and strength training classes/Lift Your Spirits, will be adding a third class in strength training to accommodate the increased demand.

Other ongoing activities include: Yoga and Chair Yoga; Joint Efforts by the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association; Zumba; a new line dance class; iPad training; a Walking Club, and Trail/Pole Walking, which will begin on September 3. Historian Bob Jackman continues his weekly presentations, and the game room hosts rousing competitions in Mah Jong, Scrabble, Cribbage, card games and pool.

Also on the roster are knitting classes, a book club, pickleball and bocce, and an expressive writing class that will begin again in September. A variety of painting and drawing classes, as well as the monthly Art for the Mind workshops continue to receive high interest and increasing numbers of participants.

Linda reported that the center would host an art show and sale for the works of the late Scituate artist and longtime Senior Center instructor Joanne Papandrea at the end of August.

She said 12 to 14 people had attended the 12:30 p.m. Friday Flix movies presented at the center in the last two weeks. Free popcorn is included!

She informed the Board that the center's Outreach Coordinator position is still open and being reposted by Human Resources. Susan Drevitch Kelly suggested posting the position on her 50+ Job Seeker's Website.

Linda told the Board that the Senior Center's September/October newsletter was nearing completion, and she planned to issue a supplemental edition in October. She said an increase in advertisers, which has occurred since the opening of the new center, may allow her to publish the newsletter every month in the future.

SHINE counselors are making appointments in-house for seniors, and they are expected to be in great demand during the open enrollment period for Medicare in October.

Ongoing support groups for the bereaved, for caregivers, and for Parkinson's patients are available throughout the year, as well as counseling services for veterans.

Linda discussed the well-attended Memorial Celebration of Life that was held recently at the center to honor the late Bette Johnson, who was a longtime advocate for the new senior center through her active fundraising efforts with the Friends of Scituate Seniors (FOSS).

The Center also hosted the Heritage Days Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast, which drew 300 people of all ages to the banquet hall on the first Saturday in August. Rotary member Joe Kelly cooked all of the pancakes on an outside grille, and 14 tables were set up for guests, who lingered long after the breakfast was over.

Linda presented a transportation report, and indicated that the numbers of rides provided during the summer had dropped a bit, but calls were beginning to increase. She also stated that the center is happily still "under budget."

South Shore Elder Services

Joan Powers, the liaison for the South Shore Elder Services, reported on her group's meeting at its new headquarters in Braintree on August 3. Members toured the new building and are planning an open house this fall. The organization is working on a 5-year plan. A salary increase has been instituted for personal care workers. She discussed her group's upcoming fundraising dinner to be held at St. Luke's parish on August 22.

FOSS

Elaine Schembari said that FOSS is meeting again in person and getting organized under its new leadership. Because of Covid concerns, the group will not host its annual fashion show

fundraiser. And plans for a trivia night and Christmas fair are all contingent on what happens with the virus at this point. Elaine said that everything is a work in progress.

Build A Campus

Gordon Price reported to the Board that his committee had reached its goal and wrapped up its fundraising activities with a total of \$260,000 raised to help pay down the debt of the center. Gordon discussed the Donor Board, which will bear the names of hundreds of contributors that helped make the center possible. The board will have the image of the Lawson Tower, and will be displayed prominently at the senior center. He said his group is planning a donor reception in October to thank people for their generosity. Gordon mentioned that the town of Marshfield's Council on Aging has asked for his group's advice on raising funds for the construction of its new senior center.

J.D. thanked Gordon for the fundraising efforts of Build A Campus, and Linda expressed her gratitude to the many volunteers who help out with the activities at the center.

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

The next Council on Aging Board of Directors meeting will take place at the senior center on September 9 at 5:00 p.m.