**Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, January 9, 2020**

Call to order - 6:30 pm

Attendance - Board Members: JD Miller (JD), Chair, Janice Desmond (C0-Chair), Janice Lindblom, Leslie James, Susan Kelley, Maud Meulstee,

In addition, Linda, Hayes (LH), Senior Center Director; Joan Powers (liaison to South Shore Elder Services); Elaine Schembari (liaison to FOSS) and Karen Canfield (liaison to Board of Selectmen) were present.

Absent Board Members: Lucille Sorrentino, Henry Yeh, Caitlin Coyle.

The minutes for December 2019 were reviewed and approved.

Karen Canfield (Board of Selectmen) updated the Board on construction of the new Senior Center.

* She asked: we are in the starting line of construction, there will be weekly meetings, can someone please attend? Linda does attend and JD when able; possibly others could be available – will keep in contact.
* She asked: There will be a lot of important minutia to decide at this point; it is very important for the advocates to be involved. COA said we will be.
* Board member asked a question about the current law suit. She said the matter is in court and will go through the process.
* Linda updated the Board: Contractors are starting. Zoning will follow up.

Part of the construction is to take down the C-wing after abatement.

* KC suggested official ground-breaking ceremony. COA said we will attend.
* Linda asked about input on the sign signaling the start of construction. This is good for publicity, and fund raising.

**Director’s report**:

*General/Office:*

* LH attended GATRA Advisory Board meeting on 12.18.2019 in Norton. The new Executive Director was approved, starts employment Jan. 20, 2020.
* LH is working with SSCAC to understand and assimilate rate increases (they doubled) imposed as of Dec.1, 2019 for contracted out-of-town medical rides. The budget is supplied by GATRA. LH is trying to work out a staggered increase. Suggestion from Board: special rates for low income Seniors. This will be considered.
* Centenarian visits and proclamations were made to Doris Hastie, Frances Grondell & Benvinda Monteira at their residence, and to the niece of Barbara Gillis (Dotti Cook of Scituate) at the Christmas luncheon. LS stated it was an inspiring experience. There is a cane and plaque on the wall of the Senior Center, they got pins to commemorate.
* LH participated at town’s request in providing training/assistance to residents who want to receive electronic notifications of town updates.

*Programs update:*

* SHINE: there is a new volunteer candidate for training Feb-March.
* LH led Tai Chi weekly Tuesdays 1.30 pm; new session started 12.10.2019.
* LH led memory training 4 weeks Nov/Dec. Next session 1/23/2010 to 2.13/2020. Janice Desmond will become second trainer for following sessions, more volunteers are welcome.
* LH participated in ukulele lessons and practice for Christmas performance
* Distribution of direct Staff involvement in activities and interactions patrons:

# Lisa: Healthy Eating, Nordic Pole walking, Aging Mastery

# Jill: laughter Yoga, # Jenny: Job Seekers Networking Group co-facilitator.

*Upcoming*:

* MCOA funding/training on Jan.15, 2020 to develop new website as Scituate COA through mcoa website: mcoaonline/scituatecoa.gov. Suggestion from a Board Member to involve high school students, this will be considered.
* We will offer monthly Souper Tuesdays “soup/sandwich” a la carte lunch in winter, in Senior Center. Other community meals are Monday, Wednesday, Friday in the Methodist Church. Thursdays: Congregational Church.
* Veterans’ Advisory Council (VAC) breakfast for Veterans on 2.26.2020. Maud Meulstee (NP at VA) offered to contact VAC to provide further information on disability claims, Aid and Attendance etc. to Veterans.

*Senior Center Project:*

* JD & LH met with Delphi Construction first pre-construction meeting 1.3.2020. Contract is signed and preparations are underway to ready site for abatement, demolition and construction while accommodating the use of gymnasium and A-wing for Rec. dept and community.

Following were discussed:

# ID of key personnel and duties, lines of communication

# CORI’s-streamlining a challenging process

# Project Management procedures, submission of requests, changes

# Planning Board permitting requirements

# Weekly “hot” list to be reviewed at weekly meeting

# Fencing lay-out discussed

# Use of premises: work hours (this is important for abutters and will be communicated), restrictions on deliveries, etc.

# Project sign: Building rendering, parties involved, title (decision was made on Senior Center and Recreation Community Project)-may need to follow zoning regulation and review. LH will fine tune.

#Debris removal, clean up, temporary facilities.

*Transportation; Coordinator Kathy Clarkeson:*

Between 12.1.2019 and 12.31.2019: 442 total rides for 70 Seniors. High percentage cancelled rides (187 out of 653-higher than last month). Cancellations should be reduced, ongoing process. Slight reduction partly due to holiday season and snow storm Dec. 3. Rides to various holiday activities (see below), Christmas gift shopping at various local stores, luncheon at Well Spring in Hull.

Medical appointments were continued (including out of town-the Boston area) and trip to Low Vision program in Hingham.

*Activities/Volunteers; Coordinator Lisa Thornton*:

Lots of fun, well attended activities: River club Thanksgiving dinner and music; Life Care Center of South Shore for holiday party; Scituate Police Dept. Holiday party (attended by 180 Seniors), Duxbury holiday concert at South Shore Conservatory; annual boxwood tree making (Scituate Garden Club). Over 90 Seniors enjoyed the Boston Pops Holiday and lunch trips (2 luxury coaches needed for Seniors from Scituate, Cohasset and Norwell. Coordinated by three COAs).

Currently planning trip to Foxwoods April 2020.

# generous contributions from the community-thank you all so much!

# 119 volunteer hours

*Outreach; Coordinator Jenny Gerbis:*

Jenny had 62 service interactions (home visit, office visit or phone call) with 43 clients in a variety of categories including Fuel Assistance, Medicare/Social Security, Food and Fuel Assistance, Caregiving Resource/Home Care etc. She continues to have off site meetings (monthly at the four Housing Authorities) and met with VSO Donald Knapp. She also refers to the Launch program for simple needs with snow removal, air conditioner exchanges etc.

**Liaison Reports**:

1. **South Shore Elder Services, Joan Powers:**

* Financial report was done, we need a new facility, had ongoing training.
* New company for Meals on Wheels: TRIO. Catering on South Shore.
* Discussed Continuing Operations Plan in case of emergencies.
* In Winter some volunteer drivers go south. We are sufficiently staffed on Monday to Wednesday; have a few new drivers but need drivers the other days and still need more help in the kitchen.
* Organizing Community Dinner January 26 St Luke’s Episcopal Church 5-6 pm
* Elder Care Network

1. **FOSS, Elaine Schembari**

* Successful Christmas Fair at St. Mary’s, continuing the sale of calendars.
* March or April 2020 planned for spaghetti fundraiser
* One position is opening at FOSS.

|  |
| --- |
| **Age-Friendly Steering Committee**  JD & LH updated:  # Meeting scheduled for 1.15.2020 to schedule Community Group Listening sessions: 3 simple questions survey re living in Scituate as an older person.  # There have been some issues scheduling the Steering Committee, some members have very busy schedules and other commitments.  *#* Postcards are available for the community for soliciting input. On-line/social media will be added. Ongoing process. LH will start with groups already attending Senior Center.  # Ongoing discussion on branding/naming. Some comparisons made with other Senior Centers in the area. |

**Old/New business**: Janice Desmond mentioned changing IRS rules with forced distributions from 72 instead of 70 ½. This may affect the fund raising.

Other business:

* Maud Meulstee will be co-Secretary, starting with minutes of today’s meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.