

Scituate Council on Aging Board Meeting
Minutes for January 14, 2021
ZOOM Remote Participation due to ongoing COVID- 19 Emergency

Present: Linda Hayes (Director); Board members: Janice Desmond (Chair), Susan Kelly (Vice Chair), JD Miller, (Chair Emeritus), Janice Lindblom, Leslie James, Laurie Brady, Pat Carleton, Marie Fricker, Caitlin Coyle and associate member Barbara McFadden; Elaine Schembari(FOSS); Joan Powers (SSES); Gordon Price (BAC); Karen Canfield, (Board of Selectmen liaison).

Meeting called to order by chair Janice Desmond at 5:31

December minutes were reviewed and accepted.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

The newly formatted newsletter which was expected to be posted in January went live December 22 and was in most mailboxes by New Year's Day. Several board members expressed strong approval for the updated format.

Great news—a grant submitted by previous transportation coordinator for a new van was awarded for \$53,000, and the town will receive matching funds facilitated in part by receipt of a generous donation of \$20,000 received in 2020 toward senior services. The combination of funds will enable the COA to replace their current town-owned van (with the blue lettering that is referred to as the blue van) that is in poor shape and needing a lot of work. The other two transportation vehicles are provided by GATRA. Linda plans to have the new transportation coordinator contact Hingham COA as that is the only other local town that owns out right their own shuttle and determine best means of using the grant.

Discussed winter storm resources and preparation. Due to remote learning more difficult to access resources to sign up high school volunteer shovelers.

Discussion of COVID vaccination roll-out that has begun with first responders initially. Outreach worker and van drivers will be first COA staff to receive it if able.

New building update—per planning board request will monitor parking lot use, may assign volunteers to manage that. Also per their request, will coordinate with

Maura Glancy, to avoid recreation department and senior center programs overlapping at the same time when possible.

See attached Director's report for additional information.

TRANSPORTATION:

Down one driver but have been able to continue to meet the requests. 115 rides provided. See attached report for details.

OUTREACH:

There were 99 service interactions—see attached report for details.

ACTIVITIES:

Some of the in-person activities have been stopped again due to recent sharp increase in Covid cases. The pickle ball enthusiasts have played outdoors through the cold weather and remote support groups continue.

GUEST SPEAKER:

Randy Veraguas, education manager Boston Senior Medicine Community made a presentation to the COA board members and liaisons to inform them of new community resource. Ms. Veraguas recently joined this company which serves Medicare recipients in Greater Boston. Company is two years old and provides home-based medical care to elders, including in-home x-rays, EKG and phlebotomy services.

Due to a technical glitch - the board's Zoom meeting was abruptly dropped during her presentation. Linda Hayes immediately sent an email to reinvoke members to a new zoom meeting and most attendees then returned.

LIASON UPDATES:

BOS: Karen Canfield—report not given as she did not get back on the meeting after the technical glitch.

FOS: Elaine report not given as she did not get back on the meeting after the technical glitch.

SSES: Joan Powers. Due to COVID, hours for SSES staff are reduced and most are remote. The SSES had a board meeting on Zoom to approve an audit completed on January 5.

BAC – Gordon Price gave an update on the fundraising campaign. The Senior Center received a \$10,000 donation from the Rotary Club, which brings total thus far to \$80,000 toward the project; the Rotary donation will be applied to the Bocce Court on site. Gordon recently was interviewed by Ruth Thompson and an article is expected to appear in an upcoming Scituate Mariner. He has two potential significant donors who would first like to do a walk-through of the center. Linda stated due to the stage of construction it would a few weeks before that would safely be feasible. Gordon strongly encouraged members using social media to spread the word and direct people to <https://www.buildacampus.org/>

NEW BUSINESS:

Janice Desmond noted that the board's by-laws and per selectman recommendations board meetings were to be held at 6:30 pm but were moved to 5:30 during these many months of almost everyone working remotely and meetings became virtual. Janice asked if this current time remained convenient. Motion made and seconded and unanimously approved to officially keep the meetings at 5:30 until the pandemic is over and review at that time with select board's input.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 7:41

NEXT MEETING: 2/11/21