

**Scituate Council on Aging Meeting -Scituate Senior Center
July 8, 2021.**

In attendance: Board members: Chair J.D. Miller, Laurie Brady, Patricia Carleton, Marie Fricker, Leslie James, Associate member Barbara McFadden and via zoom, vice-chair Susan Drevitch Kelly. Absent: Janice Lindblom. Caitlin Coyle has stepped down from the board; Senior Center Director, Linda Hayes; liaisons-Joan Powers, South Shore Elder Services; Karen Canfield, Select Board; Elaine Schembari, Friends of the Scituate Senior Center; Gordon Price, Build a Campus.

Meeting to called to order at 5:40. The June minutes were approved.

Report from New Activities Coordinator, Jessica Souke

Linda Hayes introduced Jessica Souke, who has been on the staff one month and works 25 hours a week. Jessica provided statistics on attendance of activities and participation which doubled within one month and 32 volunteers on board this first month. Some upcoming programs being considered restarting the lunch program, an art show and sale, collaborating with Norwell and Cohasset COA for planning trips; a self-care retreat and lifelong learning programs.

Report from the Director, Linda Hayes

Linda states that the center is now fully open for business and nearly all of the building's furnishings are now in place including all A/V, including moving the last of the equipment from old senior center. Compared to the year before the pandemic, there is dramatic increase in senior center visits and participation in programs- already many of the programs are near capacity. Hanging system ordered for hallways for the displaying of rotating art exhibits by Scituate residents. The August/September newsletter went out on time -2000 are published with 1327 on the mailing list.

Linda is seeking volunteers to monitor parking lot usage for six months.
Eligible seniors are able to volunteer 100 hours to receive \$1275 off their real estate tax

Shine appointments are now being held in-house. Legal rotation will be returning.

Kitchen service-the new chef for the kitchen service has been hired and starting Tuesday. He will be working 18 hours a week and doing pantry inventory and coordinating with food vendors. Memorial/celebration of life for Bette Johnson is scheduled for July 17 with a light lunch. Pancake breakfast for Heritage Days will be held at the Senior Center.

Transportation- Linda reports the new van is scheduled to arrive by end of July. Statistics were shared on rides provided in May (85) and June (82) with two drivers, while two other drivers remain on indefinite sick leave, as well as the rides provided by SS Community Action Council for the out of town medical rides.

Liaison Updates:

Select Board: Karen Canfield. She reports that the former senior center has been deemed surplus property and will be sold at auction with proceeds going to town's general funds.

She reports that the town's weekly video updates by town administrator has evolved to now be a continual service. It was instituted as response to COVID updates and is popular as an efficient means of sharing. It is broadcast on CCM and town's facebook page.

The Board's work on a comprehensive memorial task force is continuing. Goal is to establish procedures to evaluate what the criteria should be for granting permission for memorials on town land.

South Shore Elder Services: Liaison Joan Powers not able to attend but shared updates through JD. SSES has completed the move to their new headquarters. The annual Scituate dinner they host will be held July 25 at St. Luke's from 5-6pm.

FOSS: Elaine shared that the FOSS will work with Linda and volunteer coordinator on best way to distribute funds they currently have, anticipate no need for any new fundraising in the near future.

Build a Campus: Gordon gave update on the Build a Campus campaign which is winding down. The goal of \$250,000 was reached. The date for donations was extended, though no longer pursuing but through being approached by others wishing to make donations. One check from BAC for over \$200,000 was already provided to Select board and when campaign is completed all funds remaining after expenses are paid will be given to the town. He noted that during fund raising he heard from several men that they felt most programs appealed more to women than them.

New business

Discussion held on associate board member Barbara McFadden's proposal of a program that helps evaluate community seniors interests in additional programs.

Adjournment at 6:44

Next meeting on August 12 at senior center.