

Scituate Council on Aging Meeting -- Scituate Senior Center
Thursday, October 14, 2021
Scituate Senior Center, Humarock Room

In attendance: Board members: chair J.D. Miller, vice-chair Susan Drevitch Kelly, Laurie Brady, Pat Carleton, Dee Dwyer, Marie Fricker, Leslie James, Janice Lindblom, associate member Barbara McFadden; Senior Center Director Linda Hayes; liaisons, Joan Powers, South Shore Elder Services; Elaine Schembari, Friends of the Scituate Senior Center; Absent: Karen Canfield, Select Board. Note taker: Pat Carleton

Meeting called to order at 5:35. New board member Dee Dwyer was introduced. Dee, a tech writer, has been a town resident for 30 years and is also involved on St Mary's parish council. A brief overview of the role of the COA board was provided for the benefit of the new member.

The September minutes were approved.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR, Linda Hayes:

New outreach coordinator has been hired: Erin Lamonte. Erin has received info/training with SSCAC (South Shore Community Action) on assisting with fuel assistance applications.

Transportation coordinator hire is pending. Previous coordinator Kathy Clarkeson has come out of retirement as a volunteer to help out in interim. There are six drivers available and one to return in November.

Program/Activities:

The report submitted by Activities & Volunteer Coordinator Jessica Souke was reviewed. See report for full details. Overall participation was 2,449 with daily average of 116.

Luncheons are ongoing with food service director Fred Willette providing the meals, which are receiving stellar reviews. Volunteers assist with serving meals. Meals prepared on-site and served Mon-Thursday; Tuesdays offer soup and sandwiches and other days' entries are rotated among a meat, fish or pasta dish with one side. Cost is \$5 with two-day advance reservations requested, with capacity of 40. There have been some no-shows, which may need to be addressed if it continues as it leaves planned food unused and people on waiting list are not notified.

The very popular Art for Your Mind presentations by art historian Jill Sanford have resumed. Originally sponsored by the Scituate Education Foundation, it will now be funded by the generosity of the family of long-time art instructor Joanne Papandrea in her memory.

The Senior Center is closed on November 11 but the Scituate American Legion will utilize space to host annual complimentary turkey luncheon for town veterans. Board members may volunteer to help serve the meal.

Building:

Many finishing details are being completed on the grounds and indoors, particularly with the kitchen. The very attractive donor board has been installed by the elevator and room signage with donors are in place. Donations have been received in Bette Johnson's memory, and FOSS will facilitate adding the new benches, a zero-maintenance tree, and signage for the café.

This month building has been used nine times by outside parties -- town governing boards and town non-profits. Unable to accommodate requests by private groups as yet.

Outreach/wellness:

SHINE appointments are continuing in-house as Medicare choice deadline approaches and in addition arrangements can be made to drop off lists of medications and SHINE counselors will review and advise on best Part D policy for the individuals. Ask-a-Lawyer rotations are on-going. Fuel assistance applications will be available at the center by appointment with Erin.

Liaison Updates:

South Shore Elder Services: Liaison Joan Powers reports SSES has a new computer system.

All health care workers employed by the agency must receive COVID vaccine by October 31. There are many open positions at the agency. They held their annual meeting on October 3 and a major award, the Dunkin award, was presented to Dr. J. Yang. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the CEO, Sandra Lindsay. Joan was recognized for her 30 years serving as liaison.

FOSS: Elaine shared that the FOSS president Pauline has resigned due to medical reasons. The FOSS continues to not be in active fund-raising status as they continue to have funds to disperse. Donations to be made to food packs for Christmas. Continue to fund free coffee at the café.

New Business:

Second Thursday of the month in November the center will be closed for Veteran's Day. JD proposed meeting on the morning of November 10 and then plan to participate in lunch, however with scheduling conflicts that was not possible for all board members.

Meeting adjourned 6:35

Next meeting: TUESDAY, November 9 at 5:30.