

Minutes

Sudbury Council on Aging Meeting 11/12/15

Present: Barry David, John Beeler, Bob Diefenbacher, Phyllis Bially, Alice Sapienza, and Carmine Gentile and Deb Galloway. Absent: Jack Ryan, Patricia Tabloski, and Melissa Immonen.

Guest: Zachary Shapiro

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Barry David at 3:02 pm. Bob Diefenbacher was appointed temporary secretary due to the excused absence of secretary Patricia Tabloski. Deb noted that Patricia and Melissa had called to ask to be excused.

Mr. Shapiro presented a white paper describing the challenges (including examples) his mother, a resident at Coolidge, faces daily due to lack of appropriate transportation in Sudbury. His mother is dependent on a power wheelchair to get around and is severely hampered in mobility due to the lack of handicapped van availability other than during the hours of 8:30 am to 4 pm and the policy which prevents the van from making trips too far outside Sudbury. Being confined to Coolidge in the late afternoons and evenings is having a negative effect on her quality of life in Sudbury. He noted that Sudbury is the only town in the area with such limited transportation service. At present there is no fixed route service through the town and the MWRTA will therefore not provide service to Sudbury through the Ride. The Ride is an MBTA service that provides handicapped accessible rides for any purpose to a wide range of destinations for extended hours.

Extensive discussion followed his presentation. Carmine will call Ed Carr, executive director of the MWRTA, to explore the idea of a fixed route through the town that will allow The Ride service to be offered. He will report back to the COA in December so that if a Town Meeting vote is required, a warrant article can be prepared in time for the spring meeting. Mr. Shapiro volunteered to assist with any presentations needed to town executives.

Moved, seconded, and approved unanimously to advocate for additional transportation services to persons with disabilities in Sudbury vigorously and where needed.

Director's Report

Debra Galloway reported that the Veterans Luncheon went well but was less well-attended than in the past four years. The new web site beta-test has been delayed due to the need for more content from Debra. Many senior trips are in the planning for 2016. The Tax Work off program is going well and most people are staying in it for next year. Three field trips by third grade students from Nixon School will be in the Senior Center next week as the wrap up to their Bridges program. Debra noted that increased staff time needed for coordination of the Bridges program and hosting and running the reunions.

Transportation Subcommittee

Alice Sapienza said the Transportation sub-committee will report as scheduled in the 2016 Strategic Plan. She presented a single page summary of statements from three studies by various state agencies,

all noting the unmet transportation needs in Sudbury and/or the region, and a tally of the number of seniors in age-restricted communities in Sudbury over the age of 65, as well as the number of units in each community. She pointed out that 90% of the town population 55 years and older lives in these communities. The Raytheon property may add additional age-restricted units.

There was additional discussion on potential action related to ADA transportation, etc. The COA agreed to consider the possibility of making a presentation to the Selectmen about this issue, preparatory to drafting a warrant article. Debra will look into getting the COA on a Selectmen agenda in the near-term.

Bylaws

John Beeler stated that he could not find a properly signed copy of the COA By-Laws that were produced in 2012 after considerable discussion with the town manager. He agreed to produce revised By-Laws for presentation to the COA in February 2016. Debra will check on the status of the 2012 version with the town manager.

Website

Bob Diefenbacher reported that the web site is nearly ready to receive a Beta Test by members of the COA and the Friends. Even though it is missing some descriptive information, which is not needed for the Beta Test, Debra agreed to send out the letter with the "rules" for the Beta Test now. For those interested in exploring the web site in the interim here is the link:

<http://dannaytest.com/SudburySrCtr/>

Access to Town Counsel

Moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the new town policy for access to the town attorney.

Strategic Plan

Moved, seconded and unanimously approved the COA 2016 Strategic Plan. Bob will email the approved version to the COA members.

Town Forum

The COA discussed the Town Forum held on 11/9/15 at the Library. Debra noted it was disappointing that the live feed did not work and that the quality of the audio in the meeting room was so poor.

Fairbank Task Force

Debra reported on the Fairbank Task Force meeting held 11/10/15. She presented a verbal summary of the meeting and noted that a quorum was not present. Parks and Recreation representatives made several presentations on facility needs by their individual areas of responsibility.

COA Meeting Schedule

Moved, seconded, and unanimously approved to make the 2nd Thursday of the month at 3:00 pm in the Senior Center the regular COA meeting schedule going forward. Accordingly next regular meeting of the COA will be December 10, 2016 at 3:00 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:17 pm by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Diefenbacher