

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING

July 16, 2020

ALL COA MEETINGS ARE NOW RECORDED AND
AVAILABLE ON SUDBURYTV.ORG

**COA meetings done over Town Zoom video
Conference Account**

WEBSITE: <http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CouncilOnAging/>

Present: Chairman: Jeff Levine

Members Present: Patricia Tabloski, Sandy Lasky, Bob May, Bob Lieberman, John Beeler, Peg Espinola, Carmine Gentile

Also Attending: Debra Galloway, Director of Senior Center

Guests via Video: Lynn Puorro, Pat Brown, Len Simon, Charlie Russo, Mary (unknown)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 3:02 PM

Approval of Minutes from Meetings of June 09, 2020–Unanimous approval by roll-call vote. Delete “is” bottom. Correct Bob Lieberman name spelling. Approved by roll call.

Director’s Report: (Galloway), (See more detail on the attached Director’s report) Several programs available by “Zoom”. Several are being done in cooperation with Sudbury TV using pre-recorded tape.

Discussion groups are creating “Zoom” opportunities on their own.

Creative solutions including Tax help for 30 citizens were done in June. Today is TAX filing deadline.

Major priorities are: Assist Alice Sapienza and Adam in obtaining MAPC Urgent COVID-19 Taxi grant (Transportation Pilot) for taxi rides for seniors, Veterans, and disabled citizens. Riders would have to schedule 48 hours in advance. Grant has an initial termination date of December 31, 2020.

FISH services are suspended, and the return of services is longer term due to safety considerations.

Van transportation is being considered but there are many safety concerns. If it does start, the Senior Center would start with scheduling only one passenger per

trip, wearing of mask/facial covering by driver and passenger, special distant seating arrangement, cleaning before and after each ride, and additional physical barrier between driver and passenger at van entry door (installed).

It is important for citizens to set their expectations low as physical distancing regulations severely lower effectiveness and productivity of all transportation, as well as the plans for restarting other services and programs.

Mass is in STAGE 3. We expect detailed guidelines for opening Sr. Centers in Stage 4. We will develop proposed plans and procedures and work with Sudbury Town Manager and Board of Health to decide what we can actually do.

Re-starting and re-opening services and programs needs to be **very cautious**. When the time is right, the Senior Center will gradually allow staff to return; then begin to prepare center for visitors (single and then small groups) by appointment only. Physical distancing regulations force room utilizations to be reduced. Perhaps the gym can be altered for Fall utilization. There is presently a Park and Recreation plan to hold a modified summer camp which will use the gym. Rest Room utilization is still in planning stages. Medical Equipment Loan Closet will be limited. Sanitation issues are the problem.

BayPath Elder Services report- (Pat Tabloski): A new Executive Director has started, Mr. Joe Quirk. A report on the action plan to address certain compliance issues is due to the Office of Elder Affairs. However, the due date for such plan has been delayed due to Covid-19 issues for the Office of Elder Affairs. BayPath is focusing on meals on wheels and other direct services they provide.

Wearing of Masks—Sandy Lasky There is ongoing confusion regarding the usage of masks/face coverings by employees of the town and regular citizens. Members have each contacted the Town Manager, and Police Chief, regarding the situation. There doesn't seem to be a town standard. The COA recommends the Board of Health establish numerous reminders of use of Face Masks. We also ask that the Town Manager ask the entire staff to be consistent in their use of masks. See governor's orders on masks for note to Town Manager.

Transportation -Regional update/ Taxi usage special grant. There is also some activity on a new Uber contract. Focusing on wheelchair service and other special needs.

Senior Center Annual Report for Town Report- Debra Galloway- No action

Fairbank Community Center (Levine)- Wording for the Ballot has been approved so the overall process seems to be moving along.

Review Saturday Town Meeting Option: The Select Board has approved a Saturday meeting for September 12. Starting at 10 am. at LSRHS. Primary venue is

softball field but many details regarding use of Internet and other audio and video needs are in the process of being determined.

COA Communication plans for the Community Center are also suspended temporarily. However, Jeff and Mara Huston will jointly work on small group sessions to deliver accurate information on the proposal.

MetroWest Foundation Update—Bob Lieberman-Bob continues to try to focus them more on Sudbury.

Post Virus planning—No Action

Comments: John Beeler: Mutual respect is key. Also offered thanks to Pat Brown for her sustained service to the Fairbanks Committee in the recent past.

Len Simon: Len made the COA aware of a July 15 filing by him of an OPEN MEETING LAW COMPLAINT FORM. Such complaint referred to certain issues of the July 14, 2020 Select Board meeting. Mr. Simon reviewed his positions discussed in the Complaint Form.

Pat Brown asked that no one make assumptions as to her positions just because she doesn't speak at a Meeting.

A vote for Adjournment was unanimous at 4:25PM Motion: May, Seconded: Lasky.

Next scheduled meeting during the week of August 11 2020 pending confirmation from IT team for Video conferencing capacity at that time.

Respectfully Submitted:

Robert May
Secretary

COA Meeting - Director's Report: July 16, 2020

The current status of Sudbury Senior Center programs and services:

Senior Center Programs and Services

We have an ongoing Chair Yoga class on Fridays on Zoom and are adding a T'ai Chi class via Zoom on Mondays in August. Participants will register and sign a waiver to join the classes.

Our 3 volunteer Elder Law Attorneys continue to provide videotaped Elder Law talks – one per month for the next several months. These will be shared with SudburyTV to be added to their schedule. Town Counsel provided a Disclaimer for SudburyTV to use before the videos are shown.

We are now hosting the Connection Circle group, Watercolors classes, the Irish Identity (though didn't work this week), and Mozart on Zoom. We have about 10-15 in attendance.

A few of our groups are independently meeting on Zoom, including the Current Events group, and the Turn the Page Book Group.

With extra safety procedures we were able to host – outside – our AARP sponsored Tax Return assistance and take care of the remaining people who had signed up.

Services during the Coronavirus Pandemic

Due to the high risk for older adults who catch the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Senior Center is providing limited services.

- We are providing grocery shopping services to several clients following strict safety protocols.
- Friendly visitors now call their visitees instead of visiting.

- We are scheduling SHINE Medicare and Legal counseling via phone appointments.
- BayPath Elder Services is providing their home delivered meals service with our shared volunteers on Tuesdays and Fridays. A hot, cold, and frozen meal is being delivered.
- Our Outreach Specialist continues to provide information, assistance and consultation to seniors in need.
- We started a new Phone Buddies program that is strictly phone calls about 1x week. We have several clients.
- Senior Center staff are working remotely and returning calls and emails as quickly as possible.

Re-opening

Senior Centers were not included in phase 3 and may be included in phase 4

We are preparing to continue to offer virtual programming, while at the same time, planning for possible limited attendance at only certain programs where appropriate distance and ventilation can be provided. The Gym is being considered but will need to make sure ventilation is adequate and that programs are scheduled such that cleaning and ventilation can occur between them.

Waivers of Liability

We are working with Town Counsel to use appropriate language in our volunteer program waivers and are creating new waivers for all of our programs, should we be able to begin to offer onsite programming.

Transportation Committee

The Transportation Committee met on Friday, July 10. The Making the Connections or “Go Sudbury” pilot is on hold during the COVID pandemic. The Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) paperwork is moving forward with updates from legal.

The Urgent COVID-19 Taxi Livery grant proposal was submitted by the Committee in early June to MAPC. They received over 100 applications and we have not heard back yet. We are anxious to hear and hope for funding to provide safe taxi transportation to older residents and residents with disabilities who need it.

MWRTA

Route 20 Commuter Shuttle is suspended for now.

Van Transportation

Van services continue to be suspended while we find a safe way to reinitiate.

Submitted by Debra Galloway, Director, Sudbury Senior Center

The Governor's orders on Masks

Walsh: Beware of 'moving backwards'

https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=2f2dcc65-19f1-4733-ae56-8f81dbee0a3c&appid=1165

Maskless, with a side order of hostility

https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=1809531d-6c9f-4c77-8463-8c50c4d39670&appid=1165

Sudbury Senior Center Update 7/10/20:

Hello All-

I and the Senior Center staff hope you are managing well and staying healthy during the Coronavirus pandemic.

The Senior Center building remains closed due to safety considerations. However, the Senior Center staff have been busy working to respond to your calls and emails, as well as planning many programs that are accessible via video teleconferencing (such as Zoom), SudburyTV and other modes of communication. We welcome your calls, comments, questions and feedback. Please let us know if you have a concern, we are ready to help!

The Senior Center is also continuing to offer the following services: Phone Buddies, Grocery Shopping by volunteers, SHINE (Medicare) Counseling by phone, Information and Consultation by phone, and Legal Clinic appointments by phone.

Our Senior Center Sudbury Connection Van service and Sudbury Shuttle is currently suspended while we develop new safety protocols. In addition, the Medical Equipment Loan Closet is unable to accept donations or returns at this time.

Please feel free to reach out to us at 978-443-3055 or senior@sudbury.ma.us.

You can also check back to the Senior Center website at www.sudburyseniorcenter.org or the Town of Sudbury website www.sudbury.ma.us for more information.

BayPath Elder Services Home Delivered Meals Program

BayPath Elder Services continues to deliver lunchtime meals to clients in Sudbury on Tuesdays and Fridays (3 meals each delivery). Many thanks to Debbie Peters, Meals Manager, and her wonderful delivery volunteers! For more information, please contact BayPath Elder Services at 508-573-7200.

Information/Resources

The Sudbury Board of Health is posting updates on the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak at [Board of Health Coronavirus Updates](#).

The Town Social Worker has comprehensive lists of resources on her webpage at [Social Worker Resources](#).

Of note:

Wearing a Facial Covering - Per Governor Charlie Baker, we are all asked to wear a facial covering or mask when going out of the house and not able to practice social distancing due to the circumstances.

Instructions on [How to Use Face Coverings Effectively](#) are available from Mass. DPH (Dept. of Public Health) on [COVID-19 Printable Fact Sheets](#).

Continue to practice “social distancing” – keeping a 6-foot radius of space around you and between you and others. Staying at home or outside away from people is the safest way to do this.

Beware of scams – there are many bad actors taking advantage of this situation to try to scam people of their money, or their identity information. Please be very wary. People may call, email or knock on your door offering free COVID-19 testing, or some other offer. You should only talk to your doctor/doctor’s office about these things. The town and state of Mass. are not calling or knocking on doors to offer these services. There are also many other types of scams – if you don’t know the person - just do not respond.

Again, please feel free to contact the Senior Center with questions or concerns or if you need paper copies of information mailed to you at 978-443-3055 or senior@sudbury.ma.us.

Stay well,

Debra Galloway, Director, and all the Sudbury Senior Center Staff
Sudbury Senior Center
978-443-3055

Additional resources:

[Sudbury Board of Health](#)

[Sudbury Home Delivery Resources](#)

[Sudbury Town Social Worker Resource Page](#)

[Sudbury Neighbor Brigade](#)