

TOWN OF SUDBURY  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
September 09, 2020

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

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

**PLEASE NOTE THE RETURN TO SECOND TUESDAY MEETING DAY**

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 (Sudbury TV resource)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 3:02 PM  
Attendance by all those members above confirmed by roll-call affirmation.

**Approval of Minutes** from Meeting of August 13, 2020 and August 20 –The COA unanimously approved the amended versions by roll-call vote.

**Director’s Report:** (Galloway) A brief summary of the continuing activities offered by the Senior Center Staff primarily by Zoom meeting was shared. Examples of the programs or services offered are:

The Ottoman Empire -

The End of the Era of Good Feeling – Electoral College review

Short Story Group -

Beethoven/Classical Music

Grab ‘n’ Go

Preventing Falls and resulting disability Presentation

Fitness class information

All of the above and more are available in the monthly Newsletter available by post or email. Please sign up.

**Baypath Elder Services report (Pat Tabloski):** While no August meeting Pat alerted the COA to several Web based services made available.

**Transportation (Sandy Lasky):** A major grant has been received which in combination with other town and BayPath funding has allowed for a 6-month trial of pre-scheduled “Taxi” service for “essential” services to veterans, seniors (Age 50+), residents with financial need and disabled citizens of Sudbury. This is a no

cost to citizen pilot service. There are restrictions and communications will go public shortly. Several citizens with critical needs have been contacted already. The service has been made available for the Town Annual Meeting.

**Senior Center Re-opening: Numerous** details remain to be worked out before any date can be set for a phased re-opening on the center. Distancing guidelines play a major role in how, how many, and at what time of day will citizens and staff be allowed back in. Cleaning, use of washrooms, and other issues remain open.

**Fairbanks project Presentation (Jeff Levine):** The COA voted unanimously by roll-call vote to support Article 18 at Town Annual Meeting. In addition, the COA reviewed and discussed a formal Statement to be presented by the Chairman during town meeting (See Attachment 1 for the entire Statement). The COA voted unanimously by roll-call vote to have the Chairman present the “Statement” to Town Meeting in any manner approved by the Town Meeting Monitor.

**Special Recognition for Pat Brown’s service to the COA—(Jeff Levine):**  
**Chairman Levine offered a special thanks to Pat Brown her tenure as Select Person liaison with the COA.**

Motion was made by Carmine Gentile to adjourn. Seconded by Peg Espinola. Unanimous approval by roll-call vote.

Meetings is now planned to return to Tuesday afternoons. The next meeting therefore will be scheduled for October 13, 2020 at 2PM via Zoom.

Meeting adjourned by Chairman Levine at approximately 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Robert May  
COA Secretary

## ATTACHMENT ONE

### Statement of the Council on Aging

After careful consideration over many months of the opportunity to construct a new Fairbank Community Center, as set forth in Article 18 of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, the Council on Aging believes that:

1. The current Senior Center lacks space to address the programmatic needs of, and the necessary services for, our senior population and those that assist them, and this lack of space will only be more impactful as the senior population of the Town increases as forecast;
2. The current Fairbank Community Center space prevents Park & Recreation from responding to the needs of the community for more after-school children's programming and the expansion of group sport activities for adults.
3. There is a need for modern professional office space to attain and retain highly qualified school administrators to provide the necessary support services for the Sudbury Public Schools which the current Fairbank Community Center cannot provide.
4. There is a need to update Atkinson pool systems and expand the locker rooms.
5. There is a need expand and enhance the Town's only emergency shelter to house at least 1% of the Sudbury population overnight in case of emergency.
6. The construction of a modern, technologically and systemically efficient community center building will not cause the Town to incur increased operating costs over and above the anticipated costs to operate the current facility.
7. The current historically low interest rates now give the Town an opportunity to build this critical community infrastructure project less expensively.
8. There is no cost effective alternative to new construction, and by delaying this project, the cost will likely only go up over time.

9. The current proposal has been developed after a thorough review of the current and anticipated needs of the current facility's user groups and confirmation that those needs can be met with this proposal.

Accordingly, it is the position of the Council on Aging that it is in the best interests of the Town and all its residents to approve this Fairbank Community Center proposal now

### **As presented at Town Meeting**

I am Jeff Levine of 42 Chanticleer Road. I am the Chairman of the Sudbury Council on Aging. This week, the Council unanimously voted to support the Fairbank Community Center proposal before us today. The Council also authorized me to make the following statement which sets out in summary form the reasons for our support of the proposal.

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1. The current Senior Center lacks space to address the programmatic needs of, and the necessary services for, our senior population and those that assist them, and this lack of space will only be more impactful as the senior population of the Town increases as forecast;
2. The lack of current Fairbank Community Center space prevents Park & Recreation from responding to the needs of the community for more after-school children's programming and the expansion of group sport activities for adults;
3. There is a need for modern professional office space to attain and retain highly qualified school administrators to provide the necessary support services for the Sudbury Public Schools which the current Fairbank Community Center cannot provide;
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