

TOWN OF SUDBURY  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
December 08, 2020  
2:00 PM

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, Peg Espinola, Carmine Gentile. Excused: John Beeler

**Also Attending:** Debra Galloway, Director of Senior Center

**Guests via Video:** Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource) Pat Lewis; Pat Brown, and Kay Bell.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 2:04 PM

Attendance by all those members above confirmed by roll-call affirmation.

**Approval of Minutes** from Meeting of November 10, 2020 –The COA unanimously approved 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:

**AARP tax return** help proposal to be by appointment and under special restrictions. It is concerning as more outdoor time is recommended. Peg is working on an alternative. **At this time in the meeting there were discussions with Sudbury TV as to the status of the direct feed. The TV will ensure a complete copy of this meeting is available.**

**Tax work off program:** many seniors could not complete their total hours due to Virus issues.

We should consider doing more to encourage the **Town's emergency planning team** as to communications and preparations for emergency.

**Cross-Town Connect Group including Sudbury.** Annual invoice for the fee has been received. This group works with us on our taxi program as well as a van program from North Sudbury to Concord and Route 20 in Sudbury. Motion to use Mitigation funds from Meadow Walk Project to fund the year's fees. Motion was deferred to next meeting in January 2021.

**Baypath Elder Services report (Pat Tabloski):** Baypath Audit is on schedule. New and added administrative policies continue to be in process. Director seems to be moving in right direction.

**Transportation (Sandy Lasky):** New Grant for Taxi services submitted thru MAPC. **Uber** program is a 2021 start. Carmine offered some process hints to aid in getting it approved.

**Wage increase for hourly wage offset** associated with Property Tax credit. Motion to recommend to Select Board for wage increase from \$12.75 to 13.75 consistent with increase in State's minimum wage increase.. Made and seconded.

**Lifestyle options for Seniors—Bob May** See one-page summary attached. Is this an area COA wished to investigate further? Carmine, Peg, and other COA members had many suggestions. A series of lectures, workshops, etc. is one thought. Info from all private facilities offering these services must be carefully reviewed for they are biased marketing tools.

**Legislative Update: Carmine Gentile:** Awaiting Governor's responses to budget. Carmine reviewed the many pluses for seniors in this year's proposed State budget.

**Fairbanks project Presentation (Jeff Levine):** Town Manager is responsible. Jeff had discussions with Bill Barletta and Henry Hayes about role of the tenants in design phase. First action now is the hiring of project manager.

**Chairman's comments:** Jeff notified the Council that Lisa Kouchakdjian is in the process of arranging some form of open meeting with LS Special Education Advisory Council and the Sudbury Special Education Advisory Council and would like to invite interested members of the COA to participate when the meeting is scheduled.

**Open comments from Kay Bell (Guest).** Voiced her opinion supporting Jeff's focus on using teams in the town on major projects. Kay was very supportive of the many activities of the COA and Senior Center

**Motion was made by Jeff to adjourn.** Seconded by Sandy. Unanimous approval by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 3:50pm.

**The next meeting** will be scheduled for January 12, 2021 at 2PM via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by  
Robert May  
COA Secretary

A Rough overview of new activities by COAs to help Seniors and staff in Long Term Care Facilities

**I reached out to the Natick and Concord COA Directors to see what they are doing.**

- Bottom line is Nothing. How about Sudbury?
- Assumptions are being made that residents are cared for properly by the owners of the Facilities.
- Assumption is made that the Facility Activity Manager is doing all that they can.
- Linkage of “residents” to the town in which the LT Care facility is located is not a direct link at all to where the resident came from.

What are some attempts to do something?

- A non-profit; Dignity Alliance Massachusetts has a mission to “Ensure Maximum health and dignity in fully integrated and coordinated settings, while supporting the workers who provide the services.”
  - Demonstrate the efficacy of nursing homes moving to a “single occupancy” model for each room.
  - Seek Legislative Oversight hearings as to how residents and workers suffered some of the worst impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
  - Work to get “supports: enhanced for workers. This includes but not limited to PPE, testing, paid sick time, and compensation. Bob comment: mental health support for staff ought to be on this list.
  - Work with funders to increase support for affordable and accessible housing WITH services availability.

What could COA's do even now?

- Provide counselling, check lists, guides.
- Extend remote programming to LT care facilities in town
- Encourage Schools to engage with these facilities as an added tactic for their inter-generational programs
- Reports and ratings of the facilities are available. The COA's could make sure that these are made transparent to the Town's citizens.
- More ideas are welcome.....

-Bob May

REM 12.01.2020