

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING

October 12, 2021,
4:00 PM

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/>
Meeting Conducted Via Zoom

Present: Chairman: Jeff Levine

Members Present: Sandy Lasky, Bob Lieberman, , Anna Newberg, Pat Tabloski, Carmine Gentile, Don Sherman, Peg Espinola and Pat Lewis

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

Guests via Video: Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource); Mark Thompson (Town of Sudbury Technology Administrator) and Lisa Kouchakjian

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 4:02 PM

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of September 14, 2021 –The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote as submitted with amendments.

Disability Awareness Project (Kouchakjian) Sudbury Commission on Disabilities shared their statement on awareness and inclusion during National Disability Awareness month. The message of compassion crosses all aspects of our community. Reviewing ways to enhance availability of services throughout the town.

Director's Report: (Debra Galloway). Clinic was held for Flu shots and about 180 were administered. Survey results for the distribution of the monthly Newsletter revealed that 1,077 people receive their information via email. Respondents said that 69% would utilize in-person programs including fitness, tap dance, quilting and Maj Jong. Population data collected shows 4,594 people in Sudbury are over 60 years of age out of a total population of 18,665 or 25%. A discussion pursued on the timing of opening additional programs for in person attendance.

Dementia Friendly Sudbury Action Team has scheduled monthly information sessions to raise awareness for this important initiative. Information sessions are an hour long and cover topics such as what is dementia, and ways to interact in a positive manner.

BayPath Elder Services report (Pat Tabloski). Funding from the State of MA to boost salaries for home care workers will expire in December. Mandates for Covid-

19 vaccines continue to create staffing shortages as 37% of workers refuse to get vaccinated as a November 1st deadline approaches. Consensus is that we are facing a public health emergency. A discussion followed on reasons people choose not to get vaccinated.

Transportation (Sandy Lasky): A presentation will be made to the Select Board on October 19th with seven months of data concerning the frequency of rides, looking for continued support from the Town. Ridership remains steady for the Uber and taxi services (taxi rides for medical appointments only) with continued sign up. The Uber contract has been extended for one additional year. Nearly 47% of taxi riders have some disability.

Senior Center Publicity (Jeff Levine): Sub committee was formed to explore opportunities utilizing social media/Facebook and other platforms to get Senior Center messages out. Discussed needs and expectations of Senior Center participants and the everchanging demographics.

State Legislative Update (Carmine Gentile): Discussion continued around the ongoing crisis with the shortage of home health care workers. A letter was sent to the Sudbury Select Board for consideration of state funding for the Fairbanks Community Center in the amount of \$2.8 million in support of the construction of a net zero energy consumption building. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs discussions/hearing are ongoing.

Recommendation of COA Member (Jeff Levine) Formal nomination of Sandy Lasky for an additional term to expire in 2023. The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote.

Fairbanks project Update (Jeff Levine): Floor plan is substantially complete with a potential move-in date of the summer of 2023 and completed project including demolition of the old building by Jan. 2024. The initial professional cost estimate based upon the schematic design surpassed the \$23 million construction budget and there has been an ongoing value engineering movement to reduce construction costs to come in at budget. Increases in costs are primarily due to the Covid -19 pandemic resulting in increased material costs. The American Rescue Plan Act has earmarked \$3 million in pandemic relief money that the Town has received, none of which has been allocated to the Senior Center project.

Other Comments: (Peg Espinola) Peg updated the COA concerning her work as liaison with the Commission on Disabilities and ensuring we have a seat at the table as discussions continue on ADA compliance and universal design.

Motion was made by Ana Newberg to adjourn. Second by Pat Lewis. Unanimous approval by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 5:23pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 9, 2021 at 4PM using the Hybrid meeting approach of In Person at the Fairbanks Community Center and via zoom. Viewable later on Sudbury TV (SudburyTV.org).

Respectfully submitted by
Robert Lieberman
COA Secretary