

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
September 14, 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/>
Hybrid Meeting In Person and Via Zoom

Present: Chairman: Jeff Levine (via zoom)

Members Present: (Via zoom): Sandy Lasky, Bob Lieberman, , Anna Newberg, Pat Tabloski, Carmine Gentile and Don Sherman (joined meeting at 5:10PM)

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

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

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 4:05 PM

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of August 10, 2021 –The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote as submitted with amendments.

Director's Report: (Debra Galloway).The Fairbanks Community Center Dementia Friendly Sudbury Action Team is considering a partnership with the Sudbury library as they work to raise awareness for this important initiative. Additional programs could include hour long information programs, contacting local businesses and Dementia friendly training at the Lincoln-Sudbury high school. The Senior Center continues to utilize virtual programs as the Board of Health recommendations are being followed. Hybrid classes for the book group and water color sessions are available.

BayPath Elder Services report (Pat Tabloski). Approval received for the funding of seven Title III grants including legal services, healthy living, and the prevention of hoarding. Continued dialogue concerning the need for home health aids and government mandates for Covid 19 vaccinations.

Transportation (Sandy Lasky): Working within the confines of the budget, ridership remains steady for the Uber and taxi services (for medical appointments only) while the Senior Center vans continues to run. A discussion pursued with regard to available programs to take advantage of potential reimbursement for transportation. There is an open position for a van driver should anyone know of

someone who is interested. A presentation will be made to the Select Board on October 19th with five months of data concerning the frequency of rides.

Senior Center Newsletter (Debra Galloway): The expense of mailing the monthly newsletter was discussed as efforts are being made to reduce the cost of postage. Exploring targeted groups for paper mailing to be considered and encouraging distribution utilizing email.

Senior Center Publicity (Jeff Levine): Discussion pursued about opportunities to utilize mediums to reach our audience including social media/Facebook page, articles of interest, placing the newsletter with retailers and awareness throughout the community.

State Legislative Update (Carmine Gentile): More than 5,000 people statewide have been approved for homecare services but are not receiving them because of low-paying jobs unfilled. The low pay \$14.50 to \$15.00 /hour occasions high turnover. Early in the pandemic homecare rates were increased to their present inadequate level. However, the Governor has threatened to reduce them in section 80 of the supplemental budget which he has offered for consideration. Additional data has been requested from the Department of Elder Affairs

Volunteer Tutoring (Sandy Lasky and Deb Galloway): Discussion on subject resulted in decision to defer until mid-school year as schools are currently evaluating student needs.

Fairbanks project Update (Jeff Levine): Permanent Building Committee meeting took place earlier today including resident advisors Jeff Levine representing the Senior Center and Mara Huston for Park and Recreation. Updates were given on the design development phase which has begun. Program room re-design in process where appropriate with administrative ,multi-purpose and lounge space complete. Continue through the value engineering process and fine tuning any potential ADA concerns. Private fund raising initiatives to begin to sponsor buildouts in the 2022/2023 timeline.

Motion was made by Carmine Gentile to adjourn. Second by Pat Lewis. Unanimous approval by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 5:27pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 12, 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

