

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING

November 9, 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, Don Sherman, Peg Espinola, Pat Lewis and Carmine Gentile (joined at 4:24PM)

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

Guests via Video: Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource), Adam Duchesneau (Director of Planning and Community Development), Kay Bell, John Beeler and Jennifer Roberts (Select Board Member)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 4:03 PM

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

Approval of Minutes from Meeting of October 12, 2021 –The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote as submitted with amendments.

Director's Report: (Debra Galloway): Increased in-person activity with fall events, but remain diligent while practicing social distancing. SHINE services picking up during Medicare open enrollment, while transportation discussions continue concerning van drivers, resources and support for questions from the community. Preparation for winter with focus on signups for emergency contacts, outdoor key lock box program and home safety issues addressed. Suggestion to consider meet and greet with The Friends of Sudbury Senior Citizens Board.

BayPath Elder Services report (Pat Tabloski): Intent for Bay Path to merge with Springwell currently servicing Needham, Newton, Waltham, Watertown, Wellesley and Weston “helping people live in health and independence in the setting of their choice”. Focus will be on shared services, quality resources and home health care nurses and aides. Mandate for health care workers to be vaccinated is currently on hold pending a decision in the Appellate Court.

Board of Health (Pat Lewis): Case load of 109 individuals with 35, or 32%, being seniors and directing individuals to the Senior Center when appropriate. Services in the community include a resource to address, but not limited to, mental health, anxiety, domestic violence and case workers working with landlords when appropriate.

Publicity (Anna Newberg and Don Sherman): Looking for opportunities to engage people and encourage participation in the Senior Center. Exploring potential resources including Constant Contact and Next Door

Transportation (Sandy Lasky): During the Veteran's Day program at the Senior Center, a printed flier was included in the Grab and Go package which provided information on the Go Sudbury Uber and Taxi programs. This was the first time that the committee was able to target this specific group. A presentation was made to the Select Board and a business plan will be developed for the Town to take over and administer the program. Discussion pursued around availability of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and use of a third round of available grant money to fund the program through the end of the year at its current run rate. Motion was presented to allocate Thirty Five Thousand dollars (\$35,000) from the Meadow Walk Mitigation Fund earmarked for transportation to finance the Uber and taxi program, it was seconded and approved by roll call vote.

State Legislative Update (Carmine Gentile): Massachusetts House passed an appropriations bill for the allocation of ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds over \$2 billion plus more than \$1 billion surplus state revenue which included provisions for health care and community hospitals. Separately, the discussion continues concerning the allocation of \$2.9 million of ARPA funds already received by the Town, as well as the next tranche of \$2.9 million and how these funds will be allocated under the control of the Select Board.

ARPA (Galloway): A survey is available on the Town website <https://sudbury.ma.us/selectboardsoffice/2021/11/03/american-rescue-plan-act-of-2021-arpa/> looking for input on how to spend the funds. Reiterated that the Select Board is the body that makes decisions on funding and where the money goes.

Fairbanks Project Update (Jeff Levine): A letter of inquiry was sent by the Friends of Sudbury Senior Citizens to the Cummings Foundation as a preliminary application seeking a \$100,000 grant for funding of the new kitchen at the Fairbanks Community Center, and the Cummings Foundation has asked the Friends to submit a formal application for the grant. Additional areas for consideration for the Senior Center portion of the new facility include, but are not limited to, furniture and fixtures as well as audio visual equipment in all program rooms and providing supplemental hearing capabilities.

Sewataro (Jeff Levine): The three year initial term for use of the property by a private day camp operator expires in September, 2022. To date no alternative uses have been explored and if no plan is developed, the Town will likely enter into a five year extension. With an original purchase price of eleven million dollars, Sudbury's older population, representing 25% of the total residents, cannot fully utilize this non-compliant ADA facility, even if the camp operator's contract is extended. Use of

all facilities is restricted during the June 1 –Sept 1 time frame for the private summer day camp and most facilities are not available from December –February due to winter conditions. Jen Roberts of the Select Board commented that it is an active topic with a subcommittee focused on use policy other than a day camp. A discussion continued as to the revenue stream and the Town’s share of net profits. A motion was introduced and unanimously approved by roll call vote for the COA to request that the Select Board retain an independent consultant specializing in land use and planning to review and assess the property and to advise the Town on various alternative uses that would benefit all residents of the community in one way or another, and to assess estimated cost of implementing each of those alternatives.

Motion was made by Pat Tabloski to adjourn. Second by Anna Newberg. Unanimously approval by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 5:58pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 14, 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). A special meeting will be scheduled for the week of November 15 to discuss COA preferences for the use of ARPA funds.

Respectfully submitted by
Robert Lieberman
COA Secretary