

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING

April 11, 2022

3:30 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](http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CouncilOnAging/Meeting%20Conducted%20Via%20Zoom)

Present: Chairman: Jeff Levine

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

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

Guests via Video: Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource), Kay Bell (Chair, Sudbury Commission on Disability) Jennifer Roberts (Chair, Select Board), Charlie Russo (Select Board) and Len Simon (Sudbury resident)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 3:37 PM

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

Approval of Minutes from Meetings of March 14, 2022 and March 24, 2022 –The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote as submitted with amendments.

Director's Report: (Debra Galloway): New van driver has started and it was reported that he is reliable, responsible and works well with the group. The Dementia Friendly team is preparing for upcoming presentations on May 10th and May 24th to include the subject of Care Planning and Legal and financial issues. Senior Center staff is working on a high school senior student service day to include crafts and activities in cooperation with the Better Day Adult program in Marlborough. Discussion followed with an update on the market research plan and focus group initiative. We have twenty eight individuals to date who have signed up to participate in the process. Special thanks to Jeff Levine and Anna Newberg in reaching out to prospective participants. Bob Lieberman continued the discussion on the methodology of the focus group process and the scheduling of zoom meetings to conduct the survey groups. Subject turned to the upcoming Town Meeting and availability of transportation to the Lincoln-Sudbury High School and seating arrangements in the auditorium. The Senior Center is providing wheelchair accessible transportation to Town Meeting and has been working with the Town Departments and Commission on Disability to provide an effective plan for accessibility.

BayPath Elder Services report (Pat Tabloski): The merger between Springwell and Bay Path has been approved by their respective boards and is on target to close on July 1, 2022. The newly combined entity will be more efficient and provide enhanced service deliverables with in excess of one hundred employees. Please see Appendix A for details.

Board of Health (Pat Lewis): Discussion concerning a report from the town social worker that we are now seeing instances of the older community residents having difficulty in providing adequate food for their pets due to inflation. This has resulted in an increase in cases of despair for seniors affected as well as those who have contracted Covid. Alternative locations for pet food could include the Sudbury Food Pantry and local pet shelters.

Commission on Disability (Peg Espinola): Follow up discussion from last month's meeting concerning accessibility statements as they relate to the Fairbanks Community Center in support of and to accompany the request for proposal for construction projects. A draft of a letter from the COA to support the concept of including an accessibility statement was read into the record. After further discussion a motion was raised by Don Sherman and a second by Pat Tabloski to submit the document. The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote. An additional motion was raised to add language for a response to the COA letter from the Select Board. The COA unanimously approved by roll-call vote. It was further reported that the COD reviewed the articles for Town Meeting and a new COA liaison will need to be appointed.

State Legislative Update (Carmine Gentile): Several bills were recorded favorably out of the Elder Affairs committee including 1) Common sense health services 2) Improvements in Massachusetts homecare and 3) Emergency preparedness for health care workers. The updated rate setting processes is pending in the healthcare finance committee and an amendment has been drafted, if need be, to request Thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) in gross hourly add-ons

Market Research Plan (Bob Lieberman); No further updates were presented as matters were covered previously in the Directors report.

Transportation (Debra Galloway): The Select Board request for a business plan was discussed with a focus on low, medium and high levels of service. Dan Carty Select Board member and Transportation Committee chair will provide an update to the entire Select Board at the upcoming meeting with regard to funding options. He will present one article for the appropriation of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) from free cash flow and a second article in the amount of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for funding from the Sudbury Foundation. Each funding tranch would allow for an additional fiscal year of operations.

Nominating Committee (Bob Lieberman): The interview process has commenced to fill the three (3) open COA board positions. We have received a total of four applications and expect to complete the interviews by the week ended April 22nd. One position are available to be filled immediately and the other two terms will commence June 1, 2022.

Succession Planning (Jeff Levine) The annual election of officers is to be slated for the May, 9th, 2022 COA meeting. Board member Pat Lewis volunteered to assume the position of Vice Chairperson but will not seek the Chairperson position at the end of the term, and Bob Lieberman volunteered to continue as Secretary. Chairperson Levine noted that no one

has volunteered to assume the Chairperson position for next year. He indicated that under the COA Bylaws he was foreclosed from seeking a third consecutive year as Chairperson. Discussion ensued as to whether the COA Bylaws should be amended to allow officers to hold office for up to three consecutive years. A motion was raised by Carmine Gentile and a second by Don Sherman to amend the COA Bylaws to permit officers to hold office for up to three years. The COA unanimously approved the motion by roll-call vote

Fairbanks Project Update (Debra Galloway): Construction bid documents have gone out to qualified bidders and walkthroughs with contractors have begun. It was noted again that a flashing traffic light on Fairbanks Road from the Haskell Field parking lot across from the Senior Center will be installed to assist pedestrians crossing the road during construction. The expected date for breaking ground is June, 2022.

Sewataro/Liberty Ledge (Jeff Levine): Jeff Levine brought to the attention of the Council that the Select Board would be discussing, and possibly voting on, a five-year extension of the current Sewataro/Liberty Ledge Management Contract with the camp operator. He pointed out that two articles on the Town Warrant directly related to the future use of the Liberty Ledge property. The first article would be to hire a consultant with land use expertise to study the site and propose a best use scenarios along with a cost to implement each of them. The second article would authorize funding for the costs to maintain the property in the event the contract is not extended. Jeff then asked the Council whether they wanted to take a position on whether the Select Board should delay any vote on the contract extension until after Town Meeting in order to allow for Town input on the extension terms, which would likely come up during debate on these two articles. A motion was raised by Don Sherman and second by Pat Lewis to request that the Select Board delay the vote on granting an extension to the Management Contract prior to Town Meeting to allow for adequate time for discussion and debate of the two articles and related terms of the Management Contract. At this juncture Select Board member Charlie Russo was recognized to comment on the motion. He described the negotiation process he was leading with the Camp Operator and why he felt this was a good agreement for the Town to enter into. He did not, however, address the motion. Kay Bell Chairperson of the Commission on Disabilities was recognized and raised ADA compliance and accessibility issues with respect to the future use of the property and the need for qualified individuals to make assessments. The COA unanimously approved the motion by roll-call vote.

Motion was made by Pat Tabloski to adjourn. Second by Pat Lewis Unanimously approved by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 5:21PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 9, 2022 at 3:30PM 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

Appendix A

BayPath Elder Services - Updates For COA April, 2022

BayPath Elder Services is Joining with Springwell

We are excited to report that BayPath will merge into Springwell effective July 1, 2022. We will continue to operate the same programs with our existing staff and in the same location in Marlborough but as part of a larger organization.

While both organizations are strong programmatically and financially, combining operations would provide opportunities for more efficient and flexible service delivery and a larger organizational footprint for staff and volunteer recruitment. It would also create a more robust organization, big enough to take advantage of opportunities not possible for either of the two smaller nonprofits. Both organizations share very similar missions to provide quality resources and services to individuals across the lifespan, empowering them to remain in the setting of their choice while they face the challenges that come with aging, caregiving, and/or living with chronic health issues. Philosophically, the organizations are well-positioned for a merger at this time, and, with little duplication in senior management and staff vacancies at both organizations, no layoffs are currently being considered as a part of the discussions. Springwell's Chief Executive Officer, Trish Smith, will head the new organization, and Joe Quirk, BayPath's CEO will remain on the organization's senior leadership team.

This month Trish Smith and Joe Quirk will conduct a town hall meeting for Council Chairs and Senior Center Directors to review in more detail the changes that can be expected and to answer any questions. The new organization is committed to strengthening its ties to the local COAs and to finding new ways to collaborate with you to support residents.