

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
October 17, 2022
3:30 PM

ALL COA MEETINGS ARE NOW RECORDED AND
AVAILABLE ON SUDBURYTV.ORG

**COA Hybrid 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: Anna Newberg, Bob Lieberman, Marilyn Tromer, Colin Warwick
Carmine Gentile, Don Sherman and Paul Marotta

Members Absent: None

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center, Ralph Tyler (Sudbury resident)

Guests via Video: Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource), Jennifer Roberts (Select Board
Member) Kay Bell (Chairperson of Commission on Disabilities)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 3:30 PM

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

Chairman Levine noted that there is an open member position and that will be posted.

Approval of Minutes from COA Meeting of September 12, 2022 –The COA unanimously
approved by roll-call vote the minutes as submitted with amendments

Director's Report: (Debra Galloway Discussion began with an update on the construction of the new community center and meeting with the head of construction and owner project manager. Expect to pour concrete slab in the next month for foundation and additional crews will be onsite at that time. Sandra Duran, Town Combined Facilities Manager is scheduled to provide a construction update on November 17th followed by monthly updates which are open to town residents. Initial visit to furniture supplier is scheduled to look at samples and have the distributor send selected items to the community center for further viewing. Upcoming programs/events include a Park and Recreation sponsored intergenerational pumpkin feast to be held in the gym to include carving and decorations the week of October 25th. The "Doing Good" fair will be held on Saturday, November 5th at the Goodnow Library where the Senior Center will have a table set up with literature and handouts for the public. Ongoing programs include the Dementia Friendly Sudbury initiative, Caregiver Support group and gift basket program from December through March, 2023 as well as restarting the memory café program. The flashing traffic light on Fairbanks Road between the community center and Haskell Field is still pending installation.

Fairbanks Project Update (Jeff Levine): The discussion focused on the audio visual equipment in the Senior Center portion of the building. The Assisted Listening Device System (ALS) has been funded which is key to improving hearing ability for people in a variety of situations where they are unable to distinguish speech in noisy environments for all program rooms. Further confirmation is needed from the Town Facilities Manager that the current plan calls for full installation of all required audio visual infrastructure. An ongoing question still remains as to whether there is a shortfall in funding of equipment and what alternative resources are available to mitigate and fund those needs. The anticipated soft opening for the new community center is still on schedule for the early fall of 2023.

Transportation Committee Report (Bob Lieberman): Discussion by the committee as to the utilization of vouchers to help mitigate the cost of urgent rides. Continued update on the progress to include Annex Transit as an additional alternative for riders who require wheel chair vehicle (WAV) access. Additional information request was received including a certificate of insurance and certificate of good standing. Continued concern about making a reasonable accommodation for those requiring this assistance. The committee is still waiting to hear back from the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) concerning technical assistance and coordination with a route planner. Discussion continued with regard to a potential grant opportunity with the Sudbury Foundation. A question was raised as to whether the town should partner with a neighboring town and request funding in the amount of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) or apply for a standalone grant in the amount of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000). The current Making the Connection program will end in December 2022 so the continuity of the program will require funding alternatives. A guest of the board meeting suggested that the program be funded by the Town as it is essential to the senior population and therefore should be part of the annual budget. A question was raised as to whether "The Ride" is available to Sudbury residents and follow up would be needed to confirm.

Select Board Goals (Jeff Levine): Follow-up from the prior months discussion and reiteration that Select Board goals should include 1) Transportation needs, requirements and funding, 2) Sewataro property utilization and ADA compliance, 3) Retaining seniors in the community, 4) Senior Means Tax Exempt Program and 5) Ongoing traffic issues/concerns. It was noted that the senior population in Sudbury exceeds 25% of the total population and programs should be offered to keep those individuals in Sudbury. A motion was raised by Carmine Gentile, a second by Paul Marotta and unanimously approved that "the Select Board plan to fully fund the transportation program services from Town revenues and plan necessary funding in the upcoming Town budget". Discussion then continued as to a regional approach to transportation where Sudbury would partner with neighboring towns or the program continuing in its current format and if it was then a viable program. In addition the committee discussed whether the Select Board should adopt a policy of inquiring from town Boards as part of the evaluation process of town employees.

Development of Action Plan based upon Focus Group Findings (Jeff Levine):

Discussion continued with regard to the three areas of concentration that were identified including (1) Community Platforms for Communication, (2) Senior Center Name and (3) Programs and Partnerships with a focus on Programs and Partnerships for further discussion. At this time COA member Anna Newberg updated the board on her contact with the Chinese Performing Arts Group, the New England Conservatory of Music, and MIT for additional follow up to pursue opportunities for recitals and performances. Anna noted that individual performance would cost approximately four hundred dollars (\$400) and a chamber group would be six hundred dollars (\$600). It was mentioned that MIT could be an opportunity to explore for technologies updates. Bob Lieberman updated the COA concerning his contact and discussion with Anne Roberti who is the Director of Community Education and Life Long Learning at Framingham State University (FSU). Discussion included their Adventures in Life Long Learning program that offered up to six different programs given at the Framingham public library. That program currently has 14 Sudbury residents participating. They also provide Zoom presentations for Assisted Living facilities with up to 60 participants. They have certain 4-week programs that run 1 ½ hours per program at a cost of approximately \$1,000 for the instructor. There are also honorarium payments for instructors that can be considered. It was suggested that perhaps we approach the Friends of Sudbury Senior Citizens for funding assistance,

Other thoughts/comments: Jeff reminded the committee members about Open Meeting Law /Ethics and /LGBT training classes. Members were encouraged to complete the online classes and submit their course completion certificates for ethics and LGBTQ to Debra for our records.

Motion was made by Carmine Gentile to adjourn. Second by Marilyn Tromer. Unanimously approved by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 5:12 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 3:30PM on November 14, 2022, at the Senior Center with the agreement of all board members. Otherwise, the meeting will be hybrid via zoom. Viewable later on Sudbury TV (SudburyTV.org).

Respectfully submitted by

Robert Lieberman
COA Secretary