

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING

March 13, 2023

3:30 PM

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

COA meetings done over Town Zoom video.

Conference Account and In-Person at the Senior Center

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, Paul Marotta, Don Sherman, and Carmine Gentile (joined at 3:47 PM)

Members Absent: None

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

Guests via Video: Lynn Puorro (Sudbury TV resource)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Jeff Levine at 3:33 PM

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

Approval of Minutes from COA Meetings of January 11, 2023, and Special meeting of January 26, 2023. -The COA unanimously approved by rollcall vote the minutes as submitted with amendments

Director's Report: (Debra Galloway): The three AARP certified tax return aides continue to be available to assist in tax return preparation. It is estimated that over 100 people have signed up for this service. Programs and events throughout the month of March include 1) A St Patrick's Day luncheon to be held on Friday, March 17th, 2) An update from Sandra Duran, Sudbury Town Combined Facilities Director on the progress and status of the construction of the new Fairbanks Community Center, on Monday, March 20; 3) Making memories café, and 4) Caregivers support group. In April there will be an in-person history talk and a coffee with the new Town Manager on April 11th at the Senior Center. In addition, there will be talks on Arthritis management and a special spring walk program working with Sudbury Valley Trustees.

Transportation Committee Report (Bob Lieberman/Debra Galloway): Bob Lieberman gave an update of the recent Transportation Committee meeting and mentioned the frequency that the group meets in order to focus on grant funding and the upcoming Town meeting. The funds for the Mass Development grant in the amount of \$87,000 have been received for funding of the taxi program for JFK taxi and Tommy's taxi service. It is estimated that there is approximately 11 months of funding remaining for the Taxi

program based upon the last six months run rate. The upcoming town meeting article for ongoing funding in the amount of \$150,000 to fund the program for the next fiscal year was discussed with \$22,000 remaining in available funds for the Uber program which is estimated to cover approximately 7 months going forward. Rider caps were adjusted to reflect 10 Uber one-way rides and 6 one-way taxi rides per month effective March 1, 2023. The committee reviewed enrollment trends and it was noted that 88% of taxi riders are over 60 years of age and 79% of Uber riders are over 60 years of age. Debra Galloway reviewed the current eligibility requirements for the program. The MWRTA pilot program for on demand service continues to be explored.

Town Meeting Article (Debra Galloway): The MWRTA revolving account dollar amount was clarified at \$175,000. After some discussion a clarification on the level of funding was defined and noted a need to adjust the allocation for MWRTA funding limit from \$135,000 to \$175,000 on the Article for Town Meeting. A motion was raised by Don Sherman and second by Anna Newberg, and unanimously approved by roll-call vote.

Town Meeting Articles (Jeff Levine): The discussion then focused on the Town Meeting Article 15 concerning the A/V equipment for the Community Center. Jeff Levine gave an update on the Fairbanks Community Center construction project with specific reference to the ongoing Audio-Visual funding issue. While the new Community Center currently will have AV systems that meet basic ADA requirements for the facility as a whole, the current AV system design does not address accessibility for the hearing impaired for Senior Center program rooms. The current design also lacks interactive remote program capabilities that have proven to be necessary to fully engage seniors unable to attend programming in-person. The Town warrant article in the amount of \$200,000 would provide Assisted Listening Systems, speech enhancement systems, and hybrid remote programming capabilities in all program rooms that support Senior Center programming.

The discussion then turned to some of the history behind the original proposal for the entire building. A motion was raised by Anna Newberg and second by Don Sherman for the COA to support the terms of the warrant Article 15 and advise the Town accordingly. The motion was unanimously approved by roll-call vote. Chairman Levine will advise the Select Board and Finance Committee of the COA support of the article.

Life Long Learning Programs (Jeff Levine): Bob Lieberman updated the COA on his communications with Anne Roberti, Director of Lifelong Programing at Framingham State University (FSU) and a recent meeting with Maureen DeJong Adventures in Lifelong Learning Outreach Coordinator also attended by Jeff Levine, Marilyn Tromer and Debra Galloway. FSU will allow us to participate in their four lecture day series with each day containing five different lecture topics to choose from. The lectures are primarily given by FSU faculty via zoom and require pre-registration at FSU. These programs are funded through a grant from Springwell and there is no cost to participate. There are also programs available in the early evening through the Framingham library and are accessible via you-tube. More information will be available in the upcoming Senior Center newsletter.

Town Work-off Program (Debra Galloway): Debra provided an update on the property tax work off program for town residents over 60 years of age who are homeowners. This is a volunteer program for jobs open in town where individuals can work up to 100 hours and receive a tax credit in the amount of \$1,500. The program is still rebuilding from the pandemic, and there are now 38 participants. There is a maximum of 60 participants (seniors and veterans). Colin Warwick questioned whether it would be possible to increase the number of hours available for participants to work.

Senior Center Volunteer Service (Debra Galloway): Debra gave an overview of the volunteer services offered including but not limited to computer tech help, Uber tech, fixit program, home safety visits, lock box for front doors provided by the Sudbury Fire Department, sand bucket brigade and mentioned Janet Lipkin who coordinates the medical equipment loan program at the senior center.

Other thoughts/Comments (Jeff Levine): Jeff mentioned to the members of the COA that there will be open positions for the Chairman's position, Vice chair and Secretary effective June 1, 2023 and asked current members to consider these open positions. Carmine Gentile open a discussion with regards to mortgage relief programs that are available for Sudbury residents. Debra will investigate and will mention in upcoming publicity.

Motion was made by Carmine Gentile to adjourn. Second by Don Sherman. Unanimously approved by roll-call vote. Adjourned at 5:14 PM.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for 3:30PM on April 10, 2023, 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

