

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
June 14, 2023
3:30 PM

Present: Chair: Marilyn Tromer

Members Present: Jeff Levine, Bob Lieberman, Anna Newberg, Colin Warwick, Paul Marotta, Carmine Gentile (Zoom), Don Sherman, and Pat Tabloski (Zoom)

Members Absent: None

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

Guests via Video: Kay Bell, Charlie Russo, SudburyTV

Meeting called to order by Chair Marilyn Tromer at 3:30 PM

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

Approval of Minutes from COA Meetings of May 8, 2023, –The COA unanimously approved by rollcall vote the minutes as submitted with two amendments (the AV request at Annual Town Meeting was for \$150,000 not \$200,000 and the term of service of CoA officers is one year not two.)

Welcome

The CoA welcomed new member Pat Tabloski! She is on the faculty of Boston College. She has served on CoA on previously but cycled off due to term limits. She was a Bay Path board member and was chair of the Bay Path board during the Springwell merger.

Director's Report (Galloway)

The transition plan for the move to the new building is underway. It will itemize what furniture to keep, item by item. The town will pool the three user group lists (SPS, seniors, park and rec) and find a mover. It is a complex project, but we are still on track for a move in early November. The staff will pack boxes provided by movers. Sandra Duran will give an update on Monday July 17 at 11:30a.

The pool is closed for repair til mid-July.

We are working to find new instructors for new programs.

Turnover of the front desk staff has caused coverage difficulties. We are seeking to fill vacancy for a part time receptionist.

We are working on special events for the soft opening with the subcommittee [see later item].

Park and Rec are planning a Fall Fest again this year. It will be on Sat Sept 23 noon to 5p. It drew over 1000 people last year. The Senior Center table will share a table with the CoA and Friends of Sudbury Seniors.

Seven L-S seniors came for Senior Service Day.

Tech Support volunteers are putting on a Tech Support "Clinic" on Fri Sept 15.

Other events include a ukulele group in July, fall prevention in Sept and a shingles vaccine offering on June 1.

Don asked "Do we have liaison with long term care facilities in Sudbury? Debra answered "Yes for some" in particular Bridges Memory specialty care (located by Whole Foods) and Orchard Hill connects with Dementia friendly Sudbury. However, there is not much connection to nursing homes like Sudbury Pines or Bear Mountain (formerly Wingate).

Don asked: Does our senior center connect with those at other towns? Debra: "Yes" in particular the 14 towns in Bay Path have informal connection. Our Senior Center is open to people from all towns on a space available basis. We exchange newsletters. There are state-wide annual conferences and training sessions.

Transportation Committee Report (Lieberman/Galloway)

The committee meets every two weeks. Since the last CoA meeting, we are applying for grant money, community connection grant, and working with a new partner Annex Transit for JFK Tommy's Taxi wheelchair accessible taxis. There is a pilot in May, towards fully operational by June 1. We are partnering with Wayland. They don't have a committee, so we are working with the Director of their Senior Center.

We are hoping to move the committee out of the present volunteer pool to paid township staff in FY2025.

We use anonymized rider data to get grants eg we show the grantors that we have to pay \$95 for a taxi to a medical appointment in Boston. This expense burns through our funds quickly.

We have 216 users of taxi and 174 users of Uber. The service requires smart phone competency that not all seniors have.

The long-term plan is to have a mix of funding: town tax money plus grant writer on the township staff to tap into grants that are out there.

Special Event Subcommittee Report (Marotta)

Anna Don and Paul and Debra met on May 19. On Jun 1 Janie Dretler joined . The event will be in the first week of December with a backup plan of second week of January. It will be an all-day event 9:30a to 4p. It may include Park and Rec.

The VIP list includes town officials, state representatives, local town directors.

The expenses will include flower decorations, food, and give aways. We are requesting funding from Friends. Janie suggested advertising in Sudbury Weekly. We may invite the L-S a cappella group. At the next meeting we will focus on programs, in particular scheduling demos by program instructors. We would like to add a representative from Friends to the subcommittee. We meet twice a month.

Liaison Update (Tromer)

We reviewed a list of town committees. Those that were highlighted included:

Sudbury Cultural Council Sudbury which gets funds from a state pool (Mass CC) of \$17M. Anna will liaise.

Carmine offered to liaise with the board of health, Sudbury Housing Trust, and Sudbury Housing Authority).

Don offered to liaise with the library,

Marilyn offered to liaise with the Commission on Disability and is considering the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion commission also.

Paul offered to liaise with Park and Rec

Jeff suggested deferring the final decision until after members have had the opportunity to review the mandates of each one on the list.

COA Goals Discussion (Tromer)

Colin described an insight he gleaned at Annual Town Meeting when the AV article came up. One person asked, "Does anyone go to the senior center?" as if to cast doubt on whether the funds were really needed. Fortunately, Debra had the impressive data at her fingertips that put those doubts to rest. The idea is to have goals which when completed can succinctly answer the question (if it ever comes up again) "Was it worth spending \$28M of taxpayer money on the Community Center?" We agreed to dedicate a large portion of an extended meeting on July 10th to the topic. Everyone should send in suggestions to Marilyn who will compile a list for discussion then.

Motion to adjourn passed at 5:06p

Note: Below is a link to the on-demand recording of the meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/3jVidipGdrCWMZDXof1S-xpZ82qGqBlglukwhFtTJnVoFql-R2uh9hbYJEIw4GKe.Tlr4uAB5ubrs19QQ>

You can play the video or you can download the files by clicking on the Download (files) link in the upper right-hand corner of the screen.

The following files will download:
The Video Recording of the Meeting.
The Closed Captioning of the meeting (if enabled)
The Recording Transcript of the meeting.

The recording transcript is a .vtt file which can be opened using Notepad etc.