

TO BE REVIEWED at COA Meeting on December 11, 2023

TOWN OF SUDBURY

COUNCIL ON AGING

MINUTES OF MEETING

Nov 13, 2023

3:30 PM

Present: Chair: Marilyn Tromer

Members Present: Jeff Levine, Anna Newberg, Paul Marotta, Don Sherman, Patricia Tabloski, and Carmine Gentile

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

Guests via Video: none – in person only

Meeting called to order by Chair Marilyn Tromer at 3:37 PM

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

Call to Order

Minutes from Oct 23rd approved without correction.

Director's Report

The Senior Center will close on Dec 8th. New space will be open for move-in on Dec.21. Senior Center will reopen to the public on Jan 2, 2024. Soft opening will be towards the end of January. Date to be determined. There will be a delay in instillation of AV equipment due to purchasing delays. Official opening will be sometime in May.

Recruitment for instructors and program leaders continues. (crafts, fitness, computer instructors). Grant enhancing computer literacy for older adults was funded and two tech instructors have been hired. Jan 30th is the first offering with additional offerings scheduled for February.

Staffing shortage on the Front Desk is still an issue. We continue to work to fill the vacancy. Two applicants will be interviewed this week.

We still need a substitute van driver. Recruitment continues.

Debra will be joining the newly formed Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Committee.

A construction update will be held with Sandra Duran on 11/20. Harvey Leonard will deliver a talk as a guest speaker on January 16, 2024.

Transportation Committee Report

Committee met two weeks ago on October 27. New Director Adam Burney was introduced at the meeting.

Upcoming meeting to be arranged with the Select Board to discuss Livable Sudbury. Flyers were distributed around town publicizing the meeting. Ana Cristina is doing recruiting presentations at Musketahquid Village, Longfellow Glen, Coolidge, Frost Farm and other centers in town.

New limit for utilizing one-way rides is increased to 10 from the current 6. As of September, 247 Sudbury residents used rides with the Sudbury Taxi Program and 208 for Uber. Usage continues to rise.

We are still trying to gain funding for taxi shuttle for medical appointments to Boston Hospitals. Concern is length of time a person may be on the van by sharing pick-ups in other towns. Application is still in progress.

MWRTA update – Increase in state contract funding from \$3M to \$9M for additional buses and services.

Membership Sub Committee

One potential member was interviewed for the second time. A recommendation for Brenda Erickson. Motion made to recommend Brenda Erickson to the Select Board and seconded with unanimous approval.

Special Event Subcommittee Report (Marotta)

Meetings held 10/26 and 11/7. Plans for Jan 23 and 30 opening celebrations underway. Firm date to be established during the last week of November once opening schedule is finalized.

Liaison to other Town Committees

Jeff: Friends of Sudbury Seniors. Annual appeals letter sent last week. Support for soft opening programs continues.

Pat: Board of Health – No updates. Program FEMA preparation for Disaster Preparedness discussed as a possibility.

Sudbury Housing Authority and Sudbury Housing Trust (Carmine Gentile, Chair of SHA & SHT).

Trust and Housing Authority examining Nobscot Road property currently owned by the Boy Scouts. Appraisal will be forthcoming for possible use for housing and rental property.

Focus group for Housing Production Plan was held today. Several town residents participated. Another will be held Dec 13 and evening forum will be held at the town hall.

Debra reported recent state budget updated Sudbury tax work-off program. The town has the option to increase the abatement to \$2000. The current minimum wage of \$15/hour allows 133 Tax Work-off hours if approved by the Select Board. A motion to authorize

Debra to recommend that the Select Board increase the maximum property tax work off program be raised from \$1500 to \$2000 in a given taxable year made by Jeff Levine. Seconded by Anna Newberg. Unanimous approval by COA members.

Marilyn: Review of 3 of the 5 Goals for COA.

1. The COA should seek additional opportunities with whom the Senior Center can form a relationship for cooperative programming. Pat, Board of Health Liaison, to review Sandy Lasky's focus group report. Debra to recirculate the report to the COA.
2. Provide input to and advocate for a formal Town agreement amongst Community Center user groups with respect to the operation, management and maintenance of the new Community Center building and grounds.

Jeff Levine Liaison- Letter sent to town manager to talk about shared space within the community center. Continuing to follow up and awaiting response. Copy of conceptual design document sent to town manager, Sandra Duran and COA members. Reservation system to be worked out for use of shared space including charge, use of funds and scheduling procedure. Marilyn offered to help facilitate the scheduling of a meeting with the interested parties.

3. The COA should actively assist Debra to develop a plan for a self-funding meals program that can be implemented ASAP after the new building opens. Debra pursuing plans for a self-funded meals program. Currently, funds were received to do one meal a week and additional funding just received to support 2 meals/week. Mass Council on Aging was approached. Luncheons will be catered until kitchen completed. Awaiting icemaker, steamer, warming cabinet and convection oven. This is especially problematic because the community center also serves as the only emergency shelter in the town. Suggestion made to choose caterers supplying food in eco-friendly packaging for delivery.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 PM.

Next meeting December 11, 2023 at 3:30pm. – Sudbury Police Training Room

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Tabloski, COA Secretary