

TO BE REVIEWED at COA Meeting in February, 2024
TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
February 26, 2024
3:30 PM

Present: Chair: Marilyn Tromer

Members Present: Anna Newberg, Paul Marotta, Don Sherman, Patricia Tabloski, Carmine Gentile, Jeff Levine, Bob Lieberman, Brenda Erickson .

Excused:

Also Attending: Debra Galloway Director of Sr. Center

Guests via Video: Kay Bell

Meeting called to order by Chair Marilyn Tromer at 3:33 PM

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

Call to Order

Minutes from January 17, 2024 approved without correction.

Director's Report-Galloway

Thanks for support on 2 articles to be presented at town meeting in May 2024.

Interviews continue to fill Ana Cristina's Outreach Specialist position.

Since July 1, 2023, we have recruited over 300 new members. Approximately 60 persons/day are visiting the senior center. We have volunteer greeters who welcome new members and give tours to those interested.

Numbers of unique individuals who are new to the Sr. Center include:

FY 20 - 334

FY 21 - 178

FY 22 - 336

FY 23 - 439

FY 24 - 331 for first 7 months

People that were active in FY 2024 - July 1, 2023 - Feb. 22, 2024 - 1,106

Average numbers of people who checked in for January 2024 - 60 people

Numbers of people who attended, Feb. 6 Open House - 100+

Successful new programs:

- Line Dance
- Dance Fusion
- Seeing and Drawing

- Drums Alive
- iPhone Tech Workshops

Programs starting in March:

- Ping Pong Hours
- St. Patrick's Luncheon
- Mat Yoga with Rebecca

New grand piano will be delivered next Thursday, Feb. 29th. Piano will be placed in the multipurpose room.

Staffing shortage on the Front Desk is still an issue. New applicants have continued to express interest. We continue to work to fill the afternoon slot vacancy.

We still need a substitute van driver, search continues.

Transportation Committee Report – Bob Lieberman

Meeting on Feb 16 with Jim Nee of MWRTA who gave an update. Route planner has been hired. MWRTA might look into new Rt 20 shuttle. Lessons were learned after the last shuttle. A digital marketing program could be developed in order to get the word out on new programs. Hospital shuttle to Boston hospitals still in the planning. Emergency services for late appointments are under discussion.

Earmark state funding \$31,250 for the Go Sudbury Program . Has been received from the State. We are unsure when other half is coming. Funding expires at the end of June.

Commission on Disability (Tromer)

Has been reviewing the minutes and recordings of the meetings to identify key issues relating to older adults.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion Committee (Tromer)

Watching November video. 13 members. Considering reducing size to 9. Select board must approve new members. Additionally, 4 members have resigned due to family and job obligations. Will be on the agenda tomorrow night at Select Board Meeting. Committee is active and working on a number of key issues.

Annual Report (Debra)

Members have reviewed the report. Comments have been forwarded to Debra. COA members have discussed and signed the edited version.

Special Event Subcommittee Report (Marotta)

Due to the later dates for the move to the new Community Center, the new date for the soft opening is Feb 6 from 9:30 am to 1:30 PM (soft opening).

Backup date is Feb 13th for poor weather. Flowers, greeters, food, and music arrangements finalized.

Liaison to other Town Committees

Friends of Sudbury Seniors – (Tromer). Piano purchased and arrangements for delivery continue. Refurbishment is complete and covers have been purchased. Delivery is scheduled for Feb. 29. Art placement at the Senior Center is under discussion. Wall committee is being formed to suggest placement of art work.

Commission on Disability (COD)– (Tromer) Marilyn is working with the Chair of the COD to identify a member of it to be liaison to the COA.

Goodnow Library (Sherman)– The goal is senior friendly activities. Nothing new to report.

Park & Recreation Committee (Marotta) - The goal is to urge the development of senior friendly activities.

Board of Health: (Tabloski) – No updates.

Program Development – (Tromer & Erickson)

Brenda has visited other Senior Centers to get ideas on programming. Brenda and Marilyn have ideas and will be submitting some suggestions to Sharon Wilkes, Sr. Center Program Coordinator.

Anna Newberg attended a musical program in Maynard Sr Center playing baroque and folk music. This may be something the Senior Center would like to offer.

Sudbury Housing Authority and Sudbury Housing Trust (Carmine Gentile, Chair).

Housing Authority has 1 ½ maintenance workers. They have requested the CPC for additional funding (\$450,000). Funding for units have been requested for 3 units on Nobscott Road. Trust has helped over 100 families with payment of 6 month's rent and mortgage assistance program has been assisting families with funding.

Jeff Levine previously reported: Housing survey had closed. The largest cohort of respondents were seniors. Results pending.

Town Meeting Articles (Galloway). Revolving accounts request has been prepared and will be submitted to the town. Transportation account has also been prepared to pay van drivers' salaries and operating expenses. COA signatures required. Document was circulated today. Jeff Levine moved to accept articles second by Tromer. Motion carried.

Sudbury Property Tax Relief Discussion –

Approximately 80 individuals have signed up for tax help starting next week. Three AARP volunteers have scheduled appointments.

Senior Center hosts the AARP sponsored Tax Preparation program and it starts Tuesday, Feb. 27. We have 3 AARP trained volunteers and 80 people are already signed up. We expect 100+.

Older residents can benefit from the Mass. State Circuit Breaker Tax Credit, when they apply using Form CB, along with the Mass. State Tax Form. Credit is up to \$2,400 this year (doubled by Gov. Healey administration). If eligible for Circuit Breaker they may also be eligible for the Sudbury Senior Means-Tested Tax Exemption – application available June-September.

The COA is advocating for the Sudbury Property Tax Work-off program to expand up to the new State limit of \$2,000 per year. The Sudbury Board of Assessors should take up this recommendation at their next meeting. If recommended, the Select Board will then review the change. This will increase the possible tax credit from 100 hours of annual work providing a \$1,500 credit, to 133 hours of annual work providing a \$2,000 credit.

The Senior Center will continue to promote these programs to older residents via newsletter, press release, sharing via Facebook, etc.

Home Delivered Meals Location Discussion – Tromer/Galloway

Space is an issue regarding meals on wheels and an in-house lunch program. Presently the American Legion is being used for distribution. Marilyn and Anna have visited the American Legion center and surveyed the facilities and distribution center during meal distribution hours. Their space is small but meal distribution has proceeded smoothly.

Jeff Levine will be cycling off the COA in May. A new member will be recruited to fill the opening. Debra will post the opening and recruit a new member.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Next meeting March 18, 2024 at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Tabloski, COA Secretary