

TO BE REVIEWED at COA Meeting in April 8, 2024
TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 18, 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 3:34 PM

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

Call to Order

Minutes from February 26, 2024 approved without correction.

Director's Report

There are 7 designated disabled parking spots in the near lot. Debra will request a few more disabled spots as the allotted spaces for persons with disabilities are often full.

Attendance data at the Senior Center for the period 7/1/23 to 3/12/24 presented for discussion. See attachment A.

Dance fusion class instructor has been injured so classes are now on hold. Ping pong starts tomorrow. We have only 1 table now but another will soon be donated.

St. Patrick luncheon was held last Tuesday. Approximately 60 were in attendance. Judge Patrick Fabbri coming to the Senior Center next week to do a presentation on the Judge's Role in the Legal System. New Mat Yoga class was held last week. Looking for a Pilates and strength and balance instructors. Piano delivered on Feb. 29th and was placed in the multipurpose room. Concerts will be presented shortly.

Sharon Wilkes, Program Coordinator, will be retiring at the end of the month. Search will be held for replacement. Recruitment underway.

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

We still need a substitute van driver, search continues.

Enhancing computer literacy grant funded and instructors have been found. Classes will be scheduled for the Spring.

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Committee has been formed to promote safety measures during climate emergencies. Climate training will begin shortly. Core team will create a social resistance roadmap in the early summer. Debra will be part of the Committee and speak to issues of aging.

Carmine Gentile – Town received a \$250,000 state grant for the enhanced Audio Visual system for the Senior Center. Speakers to be installed in all rooms to upgrade AV capabilities.

Transportation Committee Report – (Lieberman)

The Committee met on 3/8. Update given regarding the Community Transit Grant funding MWRTA for \$114,000 which is now a fully funded program. Catch Connect program to start in July. Discussion focused on public safety and getting the word out so Sudbury residents are informed about the program. State earmark for \$62,500 has been fully funded, however the earmark will expire in 7/24. We will seek to carry over some funds to the next fiscal year if the funds are not fully spent.

Special Event Subcommittee Report (Marotta)

Soft opening event was successful. Tours were led by volunteers. Highlight of the event was Kay Bell's husband's quartet that provided music during lunch. Over 100 people attended.

Liaison to other Town Committees

Jeff: Friends of Sudbury Seniors. Piano was delivered and has already been used for musical presentations. Friends will be meeting next week and new fund-raising committees are planned.

Marilyn: Commission on Disability will conduct a program in the Goodnow Library on creating the culture of inclusion. It will be held on April 10, 6-8 PM. Registration required. The Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Commission currently has 13 members, which is much larger than other committees. Its size and mission statement are under review. May hire a consultant to address the latter and to train the commission members.

The committee now has 13 members which may be unwieldy. The Select Board will review the mission and structure of this committee.

Pat: Board of Health – Contacted Chair, Carol Bradford. The Board meets 3PM on Monday remotely once a month.

Carmine: Sudbury Housing Authority and Sudbury Housing Trust (of which he is chair). No updates this month. System is difficult to navigate with complex requirements and often

long waits for housing. As a result, he reported some Massachusetts residents are living in shelters and don't have access to permanent housing.

Jeff: Program Development – Cultural and musical programs will be planned. New England Conservatory has a GIG office. Musicians (faculty and students) are available for hire for specific concerts.

Debra: Community Center Updates – new projected Grand opening date has been delayed further into June due to drainage issues that need to be rectified.

MVP Committee – Debra mentioned the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant program (MVP) which provides support for cities and towns in MA to begin the process of planning for climate change and how it may affect the town.

Sudbury Property Tax Relief Discussion – Board of Assessors will meet on 3/28 to approve the project and then it will be forwarded to the Select Board for approval. See Attachment B and C.

Other items:(Tromer) - Marilyn, Bob, Jeff and Debra met informally with a local resident experienced in the start-up of a food service program who agreed to consult with them to understand the various options for starting up a lunch program at the Community Center.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Next meeting April 8, 2024 at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Tabloski, COA Secretary