

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING

April 8, 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 3:45 PM

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

Call to Order

Minutes from March 18, 2024 approved with correction.

Director's Report

Searches continue for Assistant Director Outreach, Programs & Publicity Coordinator, and Part-time Front Desk Receptionist positions. Candidates have been interviewed.

Attendance data at the Senior Center so far this year indicates we have recruited 385 new attendees since opening the new Community Center.

There has been an increase in requests for the Van, Go Sudbury and taxi programs. Questions have emerged regarding transportation to Adult Day Health programs in surrounding communities. At this point, we are unable to make this commitment due to increased demand. Debra will meet with MWRTA to discuss providing these services.

Tech Workshops (iPhone) are going well. Feedback has been positive. Android phone workshop will begin in May as instructor has been recruited.

Ping Pong has drawn in at least 10 people.

Dementia Caregiver gift baskets have been delivered to caregivers in our community.

A dementia friendly day is scheduled for the Spring. Every spring, Lincoln Sudbury high school seniors participate in Senior Service Day in which they sign up for a volunteer day at various town locations. The Senior Center is hosting its 3rd annual Dementia Friendly volunteer event with the senior students. Students learn about dementia and how to best interact with persons

living with dementia; then they work on a project with people from the Better Day Adult Day Program and share lunch with them. This has proven to be a popular learning experience for the students and adults.

Emerson Hospital Biennial survey received and completed a needs assessment of community health needs in Sudbury. This is part of the regional health planning.

Community Center drainage project continues and drainage correction is ongoing. AV equipment and microphone placement will begin next week. Equipment will allow all in the room to speak and be heard.

Transportation Committee Report – (Lieberman)

Members of the Transportation Committee attended a chamber of commerce meeting and economic development discussed.

Catch Connect Pilot grant-funded service discussed and will start on July 1. A special launch event will be planned. The town is partnering with the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority.

We have received ½ of our earmark funding from the state (\$31,250) instead of the full earmark. We continue to seek the remainder of the full funding which has a deadline for spending. State Rep. Gentile will be asking for an extension to the spending deadline.

Liaison to other Town Committees

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.

Pat: Board of Health – No updates.

Marilyn: The DEI Committee met on March 21. DEI Committee is working to reduce its membership from 13 to 7. Five open positions will happen by the end of the year. New members will be recruited. Select Board is recruiting a consultant to define the mission of the committee, train DEI members and Select Board members. Role to be finalized. Concord DEI committee to will be invited attend one of their meetings.

Jeff: Friends – Cummings Foundation will visit the Community Center this week to survey the equipment purchased with Foundation funding.

Carmine: Sudbury Housing Authority and Sudbury Housing Trust (of which he is chair). No updates this month.

Debra: Community Center Updates – new projected Grand Opening date has been potentially scheduled for September.

Program Development (Tromer). Brenda, Anna and Jeff are developing program ideas to be discussed in the future.

Program Registration Policies Discussion (Debra) – Some of the more popular programs fill to capacity quickly. The potential for registration priority for Sudbury residents was discussed. A \$12.00 fee to the Senior Center provides a year’s subscription for the postal mailing of the monthly newsletter for out-of-town residents. All COA program attendees should check in at the front desk to support attendance data and provide data to support state funding for additional programs in addition to tracking program attendance.

Sudbury Property Tax Work-off Program (Debra) – The Board of Assessors met on 3/28 and approved a recommendation to increase the number of work hours from 100 to 133 hours for a Property tax benefit increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000 per year – beginning in calendar year 2025.

Other Items: Membership: (Tromer). Anna & Don have agreed to serve a second 3-year term on the COA. Jeff made a reappointment motion for both to a 2nd 3-year term, seconded by Bob to be forwarded to the Select Board. Jeff will be cycling off by term limit and the opening on the COA board has been advertised. Currently there is one applicant for the opening. Interviews of all potential members will begin.

Meeting adjourned at 4:42 PM.

Next meeting May 13, 2024 at 3:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by Patricia Tabloski, COA Secretary