

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 19, 2021

PRESENT:

Barbara Van Houten, Sheila Gagnon, Bill Scott, Marcy Amore, Maureen Saunders, Martine Anderson, Fred Monaco, Janice Fletcher and Carol Hamilton

ABSENT: David Cheney

GUESTS:

Toni Sacks, Maria Maggio

QUORUM:

A quorum was present.

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:40 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Bill moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2021 meeting. Maureen seconded. Motion passed.

LIAISON REPORTS:

COA BOOSTERS – Toni Sacks

The Boosters are still in a holding pattern. Fundraising has been very difficult due to the pandemic.

OLD COLONY ELDER SERVICES – Maureen

Three area towns have been designated Age Friendly Communities. Easton, Brockton and Wareham are all in various stages of planning. OCES and the Greater Brockton Area Taskforce hosted a Hoarding 101 workshop on May 20th.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) is June 15th.

It is that time of year when the BOS will have to appoint a Liaison to serve on the Board of Directors of Old Colony Elder Services to represent Marshfield. Maureen Saunders has graciously volunteered to serve once again. Martine moves and Bill Seconds to recommend to the BOS that Maureen Saunders serve as Board Member to OCES for Fiscal 2022 year. Vote was unanimous.

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

No Advisory Board Meeting – per Martine Anderson.

COMMITTEES:

ACCREDITATION – Carol

The NCOA / NISC is doing a pilot project with several senior centers to streamline reaccreditation. New standards will be forthcoming after the results are considered.

AGE FRIENDLY/DEMENTIA FRIENDLY - Maureen

No Report.

BUDGET, STAFFING AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT – Carol

No meeting. Carol reported that the COA's Annual Budget discussion with the town will be held sometime late summer. A new accounting system called Munnis will be established over the next several months. The Formula Grant will be kept at \$12 per elder for the time being, depending on the Federal Census and available state funds. Once the State Legislature makes the final decision it could result in additional formula grant funding

GOVERNANCE – Bill

A meeting will be scheduled in late June to review the "Building Usage" policy. Once any changes to this policy are approved by the Board, the year's work will be completed.

GROUNDS – Martine

The "We Are Marshfield" high school seniors did a great job cleaning up the grounds. Martine expressed concerns about the walk path needing attention and the baseball kids throwing rocks into the park.

EVALUATION – Maureen

No Report.

MARKETING, OUTREACH AND TECHNOLOGY – Barbara

The May 10th meeting focused on new ways to get information out to seniors: Revising The Link; Using our Facebook page more; and, Blast E-mailing to remind participants of schedules were all discussed.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT – Bill Sheila and Carol

The expansion construction is moving along well. The roof on the new section is almost completed and ready for shingling. The interior rooms are studded and window installation will be next. The Designer is working well with Carol and her team. Opening will be a multi-stage operation beginning in November. The Town website regularly updates construction information.

OUTDOOR RECREATION AREA: Tom Reynolds of the DPW approved Carol calling Jimmy Jackson to set up a meeting with Carol and others to discuss signage.

STRATEGIC PLANNING – Maureen

The Committee met on 5/13 to begin designing a Strategic Plan for next year. Carol will set up a meeting with Dave Cheney and Wally Coyle to be followed by a SWOT Analysis hopefully in June. The Committee will meet again in July to review the Tracker and SWOT results.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- 1) The Senior Center will officially be opening on June 1, 2021. We will continue to proceed with caution and follow BOH protocols.
- 2) We plan to gradually increase the # of Indoor programs while maintaining outdoor and virtual programs. We hope to add congregate lunch in August.
- 3) The Better Together Program for the socially isolated will start on June 21 from 10-2. The Social Day Care program will start on June 23rd. Barbie Rugg is the coordinator and is in the process of finalizing the forms and interviewing potential candidates.

- 4) "The Park" opened May 1 and many people are enjoying the space. Marilee is working on Pickleball lessons with a couple of volunteers which seem to be ironing out. There were 28 people that signed up for lessons. When we first set up there was missing hardware for the Pickleball nets and the door was broken but both have been fixed.
- 5) Benches and receptacles have been ordered and will arrive late June or early July. I am working on installation of those benches at this time. We are working with DOT for the grant and have made progress on that front.
- 6) May is older American's month and the theme is "Communities of Strength".
- 7) OCPC have issued RFP's for funding for Fiscal 2022. A letter of intent must be filed by this Friday, May 21st to apply for Title III federal funding. I plan to file for funds to help supplement our Social Day Care Program.
- 8) We have received a donation of 25 lap tops from a private company. We are working with Ron McGrath and the Masons to help refurbish these machines.
- 9) May is also Elder Law Month and we are observing that on May 28th at 1:00 with a zoom presentation by Judge George Phelan through the Mass Bar Association. He will do a presentation on "planning for your future". Updated Elder Law Education Guides will be available in a limited supply to participants.
- 10) We have partnered with Mass Audubon on a 4 part series called "Birding by Ear", which will be both live and on zoom during May and June.
- 11) We are working on a number of initiatives with LPI publishing to make some changes and improvements to our newsletter.
 - a. Improvements will include; new software that is user friendly, better graphics that are more easily shared which will take place in the fall.
 - b. They have also offered a new website design program for our Senior Center. They will provide us with a designer and technical assistance to create this. We initiated the process and have chosen a domain name for the site. The benefits are better search capacity and the site will be more visually appealing.
 - c. As part of this package we will also have the capacity to send out an e-newsletter weekly. We will then do a blast email through MSC with highlights for that week.
 - d. Once per year a sales person comes out to revisit ads in the newsletter. They are coming out in June once again and as discussed with them last year and this, we are shooting for adding 4 more pages. This will allow us to spread out text and add more graphics along with adding all of our new programs once we expand.
 - e. The Covid 19 Vaccine Clinic at the Marshfield Fair will end on June 26th.
 - f. The Board of Health (BOH) has a new co-director – Dan Thompson who will co-direct with Gary Russell. The COA is hoping to work more closely with the BOH in order to offer more community based nursing services and education. Especially with the clinic coming to a conclusion in late June.
 - g. New Building News: We will be putting together a group to look at the PA system, Data and audio visual needs for the new building. We also continue to work with the designer on picking out furnishings.
 - h. Diversity event in Marshfield on June 12 10:00 am at the Boys and Girls club, speakers and entertainment will be provided.
 - i. The Council on Aging will be hosting a Graduate Social Work Student from Bridgewater University in September. Her name is Allison Bruce.
 - j. We are now advertising for a part time Activities Coordinator.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The Board reviewed the resume of Maria Maggio, a potential candidate for Board membership. She attended the meeting in order to meet all members and subsequently left to afford members time for discussion, which was very positive. Maureen moved that we invite Maria to join the Board. Marcy seconded. The vote to recommend her appointment on the COA Board, to the Board of Selectman was unanimous.
2. Martine announced her retirement at the end of her term on June 30th, 2021. Board members thanked her for her hard work and many contributions to the Council on Aging.

SPECIAL VOTES TAKEN:

- The Board voted unanimously to reappoint Maureen Saunders to continue serving as liaison on the Board of Directors of OCES in the upcoming year.
- The Board voted unanimously to recommend to the Selectmen that they appoint Maria Maggio to the Board of the Council on Aging to fill Martine Anderson's seat, as she is not requesting reappointment effective July 1, 2021 and to put this recommendation in writing to the Board of Selectmen.

NEXT MEETING: June 16, 2021 @ 3:30PM

ADJOURNMENT:

Bill moved to adjourn the meeting. Marcy seconded. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcy G. Amore
COA Board Secretary