

Carlisle Council on Aging Board Meeting
Clark Room Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle MA
January 25, 2022 Minutes

Board Members Present: Verna Gilbert, Maxine Crowther, Sally Hayen, Jerome Lerman, Ann James, Wendy Barrow, Ann Quenin, Abha Singhal, Elisabeth Bojarski

Associate Members Present: John Ballantine, Deborah O’Kelly, Amy Livens

COA Staff Present: Joan Ingersoll, Carol Grueneich

Guests: Mary Cheever

Friends Representative: Vanessa Moroney

Select Board: David Model

The virtual meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Ann Quenin.

Secretary Minutes: A **motion** was made by Maxine Crowther to accept the December 14, 2021 minutes submitted by Verna Gilbert. It was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Director Report:

- A **motion** was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the January 25, 2022 Director’s Report; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- The COA continues to offer drive-thru meals and events on Zoom. Seniors have given positive feedback on the variety and quality of programs.
- The Select Board is in support of the Senior Tax Deferral program changes recommended by the COA. The proposed changes will be included as a warrant article at the April Town Meeting.
- Four grant requests were submitted in December and January, two to the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest and two to the Carlisle ARPA Committee. The Community Chest requests include \$16,000 for programs and \$30,000 for online mental health services for adult residents in financial need. The ARPA grant requests include \$11,380 for premium pay for COA drivers and \$30,000 for online mental health services.
- Carol and Joan are exploring a new meal program for seniors in need, especially those receiving Meals on Wheels (MOW) and Healthy Helpings who need greater nutrition support. This program will be funded by the FOCCOA and the Community Chest.
- Joan is on a committee to update a new directors manual for Mass. COAs. She is also working on updating the Carlisle Director Manual.
- Joan submitted the COA section of the Carlisle 2021 Annual Report.
- Transportation: 143 rides in December and thus far 91 in January. MOW volunteers delivered 202 meals to 11 households in December.
- FLOW transportation: The contract with FLOW will be cancelled at the end of this month and the accessible vehicle returned to Carlisle. Myriam and Joan are meeting with COA drivers to discuss incorporating this vehicle and additional transportation services into our program. FLOW provided 34 rides to Boston for five individuals in 2021. All have been notified about upcoming changes. Two COA drivers have agreed to drive to Boston. This service will be available only between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. to seniors in need with no other means of getting to medical appointments.

Social Worker Report

- There have been fewer home visits this month because of the COVID surge. Carol is checking in with people when dropping off Healthy Helpings or other things. Carol is also checking in with people via phone or when they visit the office for fuel assistance.
- Senior Moments and the Men's Breakfast were cancelled. Gen Silent was postponed until June.
- Carol is working on updating the resource manual and hopes to be done by June.
- Carol is checking with seniors receiving MOW and Healthy Helpings re their satisfaction and if they are interested in receiving Heart to Home Meals.
- Carol has been helping a senior who wants to move to assisted living.

Financial Report

- Jerry said that the financials are on track.
-

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS): Sally was not online at this time so there was no report.

Friends of Carlisle Council on Aging: Vanessa reported that donations are still coming in. As inflation is rising, she said the Friends would be amenable to more grant requests if needed. The Friends are working on ways to thank the Fire and EMT personnel for their work during the pandemic, especially for providing so many PCR tests.

Old/New Business:

- Name change: Since the COA now serves so many individuals under 60, a name change to be more inclusive but not discount the seniors was discussed. The board voted to change the name from Carlisle Council on Aging to Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services. Joan will submit a Warrant Article for this change today, the last day to submit warrant articles for Spring Town Meeting.
- Pickleball update: The board discussed the pickleball facility. All felt that there was not enough information to make a definitive choice today. Some issues include: the fiscal viability of the project (the town is on the hook for any funding beyond \$1.5M); the lack of a siting plan; architect Debby Bentley feels that \$1.5M is not nearly enough for the project; there are issues about using town land for this project when there are so many competing needs; abutter Till homes is concerned about noise and traffic as well as stating that Till had to go through many steps before building – would pickleball be able to omit any of these; lack of interest in pickleball if the size of the community center had to be smaller; many of the items in the grant agreement, such as not only having 12 courts but needing space for more; maintenance, access, parking, septic, wastewater, overruns in general, make the project unrealistic as the agreement stands now. The board voted unanimously on the following motion: The Carlisle Council on Aging board does not feel it can make a decision on the pickleball facility at this point, as we do not have enough information. We support having a multi-functional task force to define this information. Based on the foregoing, we recommend that the pickleball vote be deferred to a future Town Meeting.

Carlisle Council on Aging January 25, 2022

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 22, the fourth Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Documents Provided:

- Meeting agenda
- Minutes of December 14, 2021 meeting
- January 25, 2022 Director report

Submitted by Verna Gilbert, Secretary and approved on February 22, 2022