

Carlisle Council on Aging Board Meeting
Clark Room Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle MA
February 22, 2022 Minutes

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

Associate Members Present: Deborah O’Kelly, Amy Livens

COA Staff Present: Joan Ingersoll

Guests: Mary Cheever, Cindy Walsh

Friends Representative: Nancy Shohet West

Select Board: David Model

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

Introductions: Potential board member Mary Cheever was introduced as was guest Cindy Walsh.

Secretary Minutes: A **motion** was made by Maxine Crowther to accept the January 25, 2022 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 February 22, 2022 Director’s Report; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- The COA continues to offer drive-thru meals (~80 attend) and events on Zoom (~50 attend) along with a few small in-person events such as the Valentine’s Day tea, mah jongg and Senior Moments at Ferns. Feedback is being solicited for selected programs via Survey Monkey.
- The CCHS St. Patrick’s Day drive-thru is scheduled for Saturday, March 12.
- A Volunteer Appreciation Lunch is scheduled for May 5 at the Congregational Church, catered by Nashoba Tech.
- Thirteen seniors participate in the new Heart to Home Meals program (can receive up to 4 frozen meals/week at a cost of about \$20K/year for 13). The COA coordinates the orders and Heart to Home delivers to each home. The COA will assess the program via a questionnaire. The COA has applied for a \$7,000 grant from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation to help support this. Additional funding might come from the Friends of the COA and the Community Chest.
- Healthy Helpings meal box program with Open Table continues, with 14 seniors receiving meal boxes twice/month as a drive-thru at the Fire Station. Seniors also have been ordering groceries through Open Table.
- The COA provided 102 rides in January and have 118 scheduled thus far for February. Meals on Wheels volunteers delivered 164 meals to 10 households in January.
- The FLOW contract ended January 31 and we now have an additional accessible van. The transportation radius has been expanded and now includes rides to Boston for seniors with no other transportation means for appointments between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. An

additional part-time driver will be hired; these hours can be accommodated within the COA budget.

- The COA team met on February 10 with the Concord-Carlisle Community Chest Allocation Committee to review their \$16,000 grant application. Another meeting is scheduled for March to review the innovation grant application for telehealth mental health services.
- Carol and Joan will meet with the ARPA committee in March to discuss the two ARPA requests. Joan explained that the telehealth mental health service aspect is time-limited and pandemic-related, not ongoing.
- The Board of Assessors objected to the 3% interest rate the COA proposed for the Senior Tax Deferral Program. Joan met with Chair of the Assessors Ken Mostello to come up with a revised proposal that will increase the income limit from \$40,000 to \$62,000 and decrease the interest rate from 8% to 6%.

Social Worker Report

- Carol has been very busy and doing a lot of outreach.
- Seniors are happy with in-person events starting again. The caregiver support group is going well, but attendance is down because of illness and weather-related incidents.
- Affordable housing requests continue to come in. Carol is updating the resource list as new information is available.
- Carol has created a list of veterans as the COA plans events for veterans. Information has been in the Mosquito and Bits and Bytes.
- A Meals on Wheels driver called 911 for a senior who was admitted to Emerson Hospital. Carol is coordinating with Minuteman Senior Services to increase in-home support for this individual.

Financial Report

- Jerry said that the financials are on track, as 60% of the fiscal year has passed and less than 60% of the budget has been expended.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS): Sally reported that at the last meeting, members were asked to complete a survey about their meetings, with one result being that meetings will be 1 hour 45 minutes rather than 2 hours. Sally also said she is looking for someone to replace her; anyone interested should contact Sally. The board thanked her for her work.

Friends of Carlisle Council on Aging: Nancy said that the Friends hope to have their late May/early June annual meeting in person at St. Irene Church. Fire Chief Brian Sorrows will be the speaker. Donations are still being received. The Friends gave EMTs helping with COVID testing Ferns gift cards as tokens of appreciation. The Friends like the proposed name change to Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Resources. They realize some of their paperwork will have to change.

Old/New Business:

- Pickleball: The group discussed what was happening with pickleball. All agreed that there should be a meeting of interested parties, the result of which would be a list of

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questions for Steinberg-Lalli to answer. Also a more extensive engineering study is needed to determine what would fit on the Moseley/Banta-Davis property.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 22, the fourth Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Documents Provided:

- Meeting agenda
- Minutes of January 25, 2022 meeting
- February 22, 2022 Director report

Submitted by Verna Gilbert, Secretary and approved on March 22, 2022.