

Carlisle Council on Aging Special Board Meeting

Zoom video conference

April 6, 2020 Minutes

Board Members Present: Verna Gilbert, Ann Quenin, Maxine Crowther, Abha Singhal, Jerry Lerman, Ann James, Walter Hickman

Associate Members Present: Elisabeth Bojarski, John Ballantine

COA Staff Present: Angela Smith

Friends Representative:

Board of Selectmen: Alan Lewis

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Abha Singhal.

COA director search committee: Verna Gilbert presented why we wanted to hire Joan Ingersoll as the new director. There was discussion afterwards, including concerns from Elisabeth Bojarski regarding how long she would stay in the position among other things. Angela pointed out that she, Debbie, Linda and Myriam all felt from their interviews that Joan would work out well. Walter felt she would be a good leader. Angela expects that Joan will do the tasks that David did – budgets, grants, transportation, mostly administrative. The board voted positively to send a letter to the Selectmen recommending that they hire Joan Ingersoll as the new COA director. Verna sent such letter to Kate Reid directly after the board meeting.

Angela update on activities during pandemic:

- An 80-year-old Spanish-speaking homeless Carlisle man is taking a lot of cycles of a lot of people who are trying to find a place for him to sleep (rather than in his car). Peter Cullinane has accompanied him 2x/week to take showers at the Carlisle Public School. Agencies/people contacted include SMOC, MMSS, Coalitions for Homeless, Police chiefs in Carlisle and Hudson, where man has part-time job, hotels (shut down except for housing first responders), local and Hudson churches, shelters in Hudson, Lowell and Lawrence, and his The Protective Services worker. So far no luck. FRS Social Action committee will contribute \$200-300 if a place is found for him to stay.
- Peter has been approved to work an additional 8 hours/2-week pay period until the end of the fiscal year.
- MCOA future funding may be at risk.
- A bill for \$500 will be received shortly for mugs ordered for the volunteer lunch (which was cancelled). The mugs will be used at a later time.
- The staff has been reaching out to seniors with news via Bits and Bytes, News You Can Use, My Senior Center robo-calls as well as lots of phone calls and email messages.
- Lauree Eckler is leading a Carlisle Neighbor Response Team that will do grocery shopping, picking up prescriptions at pharmacies to help seniors with no family and underlying conditions that mean they should not go out on their own.
- Barney Arnold and Christine Lear have started a Phone Pal web site.
- Some local psychologists have volunteered to talk to vulnerable seniors. Angela has asked whether school guidance counselors can help out also.
- Some seniors are losing their home health aides, either due to sickness or desire not to be in close contact with others.
- Myriam is paying bills and Debbie is doing MOW (clients down as only those with no support systems are receiving meals now). Linda and Maxine are updating the Mail Chimp distribution list and running reports, then calling frail seniors.
- Some girl scouts have volunteered to do yard work.

- Many neighbors are helping out nearby seniors.
- Many thanks to COA staff, board members and the many others who are helping out in these difficult times.

Next Meeting: The next COA Board meeting will be Tuesday, April 21, 2020, time and venue to be determined.

Documents Provided (via email):

- ∨ Joan Ingersoll cover letter
- ∨ Joan Ingersoll resume

Submitted by Verna Gilbert, Secretary