

**Carlisle Council on Aging Board Meeting**  
**Clark Room Town Hall, 66 Westford Street, Carlisle MA**  
**April 26, 2022 Minutes**

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

**Associate Members Present:**

**COA Staff Present:** Joan Ingersoll, Carol Grueneich

**Guests:** Mary Cheever, Toni McBride, Travis Snell

**Friends Representative:** Joanne Forsberg

**Select Board Representative:** David Model

The in-person 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 March 22, 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 April 26, 2022 Director's Report; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- Town Meeting (4/25/22) approved the name change to Council on Aging and Human Services (COAHS), approved changes to the senior tax deferral program such that the income limit is increased from \$40,000 to \$62,000 and the interest rate is decreased from 8% to 6%. Additionally, \$25,000 of CPA funds were transferred to the Affordable Housing Trust, to be used for rental assistance for seniors needing it.
- Joan circulated two potential new logos David Freedman had designed. The group liked one much better than the other so that one will be used.
- Now that the name change is approved, Joan and Carol will work to complete the new web site by July 1.
- The COA newsletter is now being sent to all residents, since COAHS has many services for those under 60.
- So far no one has signed up for virtual mental health services, for which the COAHS has received funding from ARPA. Joan and Carol are working on strategies to generate participation since 75 residents indicated anonymously they would like such services.
- More people are registering for in-person programs. Virtual programs are continuing.
- In partnership with the Carlisle Affordable Housing Trust, the COA is meeting with Metro West Collaborative Development to explore having them manage the administrative and regulatory components of Carlisle's rental assistance program.
- The COA will be using ARPA funds for project and programs, starting with Heart to Home Meals and driver payments. The five regular drivers will each receive \$1,900 and the substitute driver will receive \$500. A new driver started work at the end of March. Myriam organized a training program at Town Hall for all seven drivers.
- A total of 199 rides were provided in March, exceeding pre-pandemic levels. There were four new riders and three long distance trips to Mass General and Chestnut Hill were provided. Thirty non-ambulatory rides, nine of which were for persons under 60, were provided.

**Social Worker Report**

- Carol helped a senior move to Robbins Brook Assisted Living in Acton.
- Carol is starting a bereavement group for those who experienced recent loss.
- Carol helped a senior (who just moved to Village Court) sign up for benefits such as Healthy Helpings and SNAP and to find activities and events to join.
- Carol is helping a woman with low vision access agencies with funding for assistive technology and related services.

**Financial Report**

- Jerry reported that we are on track to spend our COA funds, spending down grants first.

**Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS):** Sally reported that the last meeting concerned financial help for seniors. She also reiterated that a new MMSS representative is needed after June as she is stepping down. The meetings, currently virtual, are on the first Wednesday of the month from 9:15 to 10:45. If interested, contact Sally or call the COA office.

**Friends of Carlisle Council on Aging:** Joanne Forsberg reported that the FOCCOA annual meeting will be on May 22 from 2-4 p.m. at St. Irene. Brian Sorrows will be the speaker; his topic is emergency planning.

**Old/New Business:**

- COA nominating slate for FY23: Nominating Committee chair Wendy Barrow presented the proposed slate: Ann James – chair, Wendy Barrow – vice chair, Verna Gilbert – secretary, Elisabeth Bojarski – treasurer. At large members include Sally Hayen, Ann Quenin, Amy Livens, Toni McBride, and Mary Cheever. Associate members include John Ballantine, Maxine Crowther, Jerry Lerman, and Abha Singhal. There were no additional nominations from the floor.
- Town election: Travis Snell, who is running for Select Board, gave us a brief summary of his qualifications for the position.
- Pickleball courts: There was a brief discussion about what is happening with pickleball courts.
- Signing up for events online: Elisabeth suggested that it would be nice if people could sign up for events online. Joan will look into it.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 24, the fourth Tuesday, at 10:30 a.m. The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**Documents Provided:**

- Meeting agenda
- Minutes of March 22, 2022 meeting
- April 26, 2022 Director report
- Proposed COA slate for FY23

Submitted by Verna Gilbert, Secretary and approved on May 24, 2022.