

Needham Council on Aging Board Meeting

May 11, 2023

Present: Colleen, Schaller, Chair, Penny Grossman, Vice Chair, Helen Gregory, Dan Goldberg, Sandra Prinn, Ed Cosgrove, Anne Cosgrove, Carol de Lemos, Lianne Relich, Kathy Whitney, Sue Mullaney, Kate Robey, Ted Prorok, VFW representative

COA: Latanya Steele, Director Jessica Moss, Social Work

Friends: Beverly Pavasaris

1. Call to Order The meeting was called to order by Ms. Schaller at 5:05 pm combination of in person and on Zoom.

2. Aging Services Division

a. Social Work and Volunteer Report, Ms. Jessica Moss

Ms. Moss noted they have been very busy but happily the new clinician Isabelle Dick will start in mid-June. She was formerly at the Community Council part time so knows Needham. Ms. Moss also noted a new Boston College intern with join the team in the fall.

All the staff and volunteers are now trained in recognizing signs of elder abuse. The outside Springwell trainer was well received. The trainer will return next year and Ms. Moss will notify the Board so that members can attend.

The Exchange Club formalized their ongoing relationship with the COA in April. Another service day/small household repairs/assistance will be offered again next year.

The coffee hours at Needham Housing continue to be well received.

The tablets have been purchased for seniors in collaboration with the Needham Community Council (Stacey Fallon is the staff member who assists at the Council.) Ms. Moss is applying for a grant so that the CATH can purchase more tablets.

The SNAP changes for FY 2024 are complicated so the team has finished the updated informational training.

Mr. Goldberg mentioned that the changes to Mass Health are not rolling out quickly.

b. SHINE Update

Neither Ms. Gomes nor Ms. Gucciardi could attend so Ms. Moss provided the update. SHINE has just started new counselor training for seven. They also made presentations on SHINE services to the custodial staff and union at Wellesley College, two presentations at Needham Housing Authority, and one for the Waltham COA. They also had a table at Senator Eldridge's

Marlboro April senior conference. They also recognized their volunteers as a part of April volunteers month.

Programming and Transportation Update, Ms. Latanya Steele, Director

Ms. Steele noted the new part time front desk person Karen Marchilonis has started. Ms. Moss and Ms. Kelley are training her. The COA is very glad to have her on board.

The last Driver position is posted and Ms. Steele is hopeful they will have someone on board soon.

Programming planning is now happening for October-December. Ms. Steele noted that Ms. Kelley wanted to note how successful Deb's support group is as well as Kelly's arts and crafts—their latest work for Mother's Day is currently on display in the lobby.

Update Ms. Steele's Director's Report

MCOA is sponsoring Board training and Ms. Steele requested that any Board members who would like training email her.

The survey with UMass Boston results are being tabulated and will be shared with the Board as soon as possible.

Ms. Steele asked any Board members who have not taken the balance training to do so to provide more use data. Ms. Cosgrove noted she takes the balance class and that the assessment informs how each member of the class follows their exercises.

Ms. Steele noted that she, Ms. Schaller and Mr. McDonald have received the draft space study and will be meeting soon to prioritize the recommendations. This information will then be shared with the Board.

The Board briefly discussed that while the fitness room is crowded with the new equipment the plan to switch this room with the game room is pending the space study prioritization and town funding as the game room floor requires reinforcement to be able to house the equipment.

3. Chairperson's Report, Ms. Schaller

Minutes approval

Mr. Goldberg made a motion to approve the April 13th minutes; Ms. Grossman seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote,

a. Ms. Schaller inquired if Board members had emailed Mr. McDonald about replacing or repairing the broken front door as anyone with mobility issues cannot get into the building. Ms. Gregory noted she had emailed and highlighted the liability issues if anyone was to be injured. Several Board members noted they will email this week.

b. Ms. Schaller noted that Town meeting passed the updated ADU's article. The changes from the draft included eliminating free standing units. Ms. Schaller and Mr. Cosgrove noted this was progress as they can now be 900 square feet, do not require a specific permit and have a broader definition of family members who can live in them.

Mr. Cosgrove noted there had been twelve in the past three years. He and Ms. Schaller do not expect a huge influx. The Board noted the change is progress.

4. VFW Representative Report, Mr. Ted Prorok

Mr. Prorok noted that the red poppy buddy day is coming in mid May and distribution/fundraising will occur at Sudbury Farms and the Highland Avenue Dunkin Donuts.

He also noted that for Memorial Day the VFW post with the Boy Scouts and the Exchange Club will place flags on all veterans' graves both at St. Mary's and the Needham Cemetery. 2000 flags will be placed. He believes that Jason Kravitz the keep of graves will be advertising the Memorial Day service in the Needham emailed newsletter and the Hometown Weekly. He noted Veterans march from St. Mary's to the Needham Cemetery and then to Town Hall and Memorial Field for the event.

5. Friends Board Report

Ms. Pavasaris noted meetings are the first Friday of each month.

The Friends discussed the broken front door and have the same issues as the COA board. She also noted the gift shop has raised over \$400.00 in April and that the ½ price sale is this week.

The Friends are planning the annual social for September 8th at 1 pm with strawberry shortcake and coffee.

The Friends will be continuing their discussion on trip reinstatement for 2023-2024 at their September meeting which will include discussion on restarting the lunch bunch.

At their June meeting they will decide the ice cream social July date.

Old Business

None

6. New Business

Ms. Schaller asked for a volunteer for the Environmental Action plan meetings over the summer. The first meeting is June 13 from 4 to 7 pm; there will be one each in July and September with dates to be determined later. Kate Robey volunteered.

Ms. Schaller asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Cosgrove made a motion to adjourn. Ms. deLemos seconded. The Board adjourned by unanimous voice vote at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Faith Crisley

Recording Secretary