

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Veteran's Memorial Building, Rm 19
900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054
MEETING NOTES FROM March 12, 2021 – ZOOM Meeting

CALL TO ORDER: Bert called meeting to order at 9:02

The following persons were present:, COA Chairperson Bert Lannon, Secretary Helen Daly, Becky Poynot, Chris McCaffrey, Elizabeth Derwin, Bert Lannon, Liz Walter

Secretary's Report

Motion to accept Chris – Second Elizabeth

Treasurer's Report

- None – Patty will advise when she returns to work

HESSCO Report

- Elizabeth attended 3/10 HESSCO meeting – her notes attached
- HESSCO is focused on long term care and initiating a 3 day Ombudsman training program to help
- Monthly report of Millis funds shows 80% goes to home services – Becky feels we have a lot of people in need but cannot find enough workers to fulfill the need
- New program started where Uber and Lift services will be available to seniors who have scheduled weekly appointments (dialysis, afternoon appointments, etc) where our drivers are unable to assist, HESSCO can set up accommodations , not sure of the cost involved – these rides will be arranged through the COA. Becky will follow up on this and discuss with Patty on her return.
- Bonny Hilton has replied and is not able at this time to assume the HESSCO meetings – Elizabeth will continue as long as the meetings are held on Zoom.

Outreach Report:

- Becky has handled 205 duplicate services and 89 unduplicated – up from 2020
- Proposed an outside book exchange on 4/8 from 11am to Noon. She will ask people to bring 3 books and take 3 books, if they have no books to bring they would still be eligible to take up to 3 books. She is asking COA members to bring in books by 3/25 to be offered at this sale as any new books brought would need to be sanitized before sale. Chris, Bert, Elizabeth, Brooks, Helen will help as well as Bob will help in bringing books up for the sale.
- A photo contest is planned for May – asking people to submit an electronic photo or photos to Becky to be judged (probably by Mike) – winner will be awarded a gift card – 1st place - \$30.00, 2nd place - \$20.00 and 3rd place \$10.00 to a local business – Friends will be asked to pay the cost of the gift cards.
- The Sheriff will be available on 4/2 at 11am via Zoom to address things such as senior scams, health alert situations, car break-ins happening in town.
- Becky asking if a Zoom wine tasting would be appropriate? Commonwealth Wine School will offer this program for \$525.00 plus \$40.00 cost for the 6 small bottles of wine (3 glasses) which would be available at the COA or people could purchase their own bottles at a local liquor store. Class would last 1 ½ hours. Becky will discuss this with Patty and we will revisit at our next meeting.
- The Art Class went very well with 12 attendees. Should we offer again? Maybe something we could do when our Center re-opens so we could have an in person teacher.
- Becky would like to start a Walking Group and is asking for 1 person to get this off the ground. Chris suggests Barbara Chotkowski may be interested and could contact some of the members of the exercise group. This might be a good offering for the younger seniors.

Director's Report:

- None as Patty is on medical leave

Chairmen's Report

- Bert will be following up with Town Administrator for handicapped plate for Sr. vehicles.
- Patty and Bert presented COA budget siting 3 separate scenarios to the Select board. This will now need to go to Finance Board for a final decision.

Old Business

- Vaccine update – Board of Health is working on getting shots to home-bound seniors.
- COA is helping to get appointments
- Bert advises that the VA is now doing all ages at West Roxbury, Jamaica Plain and Brockton facilities.

New Business

- Sr. Population growth figures in noted – question as to the difference between senior and school age children? Can be found in Town Report.
- Chris noting that our next Election to be held on 5/10 with Town Meeting tentatively scheduled for 5/3 – will possibly be held outside – these dates should be posted in the next Newsletter and on the DOA Facebook page.
- Chris also noted that the Glen Social Committee did a food drive in December for the Food Pantry and would like to do something to help the Sr. Center- would like to donate something? Volunteer service and become involved with the Center. A member spoke to Chris about donating puzzles to be offered the same day as the book sale. Becky noted that we have about 30 puzzles already that she will offer at the book sale but would welcome new ones from The Glen folks to restock our supply.
- Bert suggests that the Glen population may be interested in Field trips and would perhaps have someone who would volunteer to run them?
- Elizabeth suggests that some of those at The Glen may be willing to help our seniors with small household tasks such as changing batteries in smoke detectors, etc.
- Helen brought forth discussion regarding a note from Nancy Sitta regarding the purchase of the Braun property on Village St and the availability of Rossi's – would that site be considered for the new Sr. Center. Much discussion regarding Rossi's being not a good site as to the age and lay out of the property – cost to renovate the property as opposed to new building at Cassidy's.
- Discussion as to the lack of information of the new Center being made public – the last we heard was the we, the COA Board had accomplished all that the Permanent Building Comm had asked of us and that the project be put on hold for the moment. Our last request was to Abacus to provide us with a definite plan for the proposed site at Cassidy Farm which we have not yet received. Patty reported at our 12/10 meeting that she has not heard back from Abacus or the Perm Bldg Comm regarding this request.
- Brooks agreed that publicity is important in not letting the issue of a new Sr. Center die – suggested that The Millis/Medway News and the COA Newsletter be used to keep it in the focus of the community.
- After much discussion the decision of the Board is to have Patty go back to the Perm Bldg Comm, Abacus and the Selectboard to re-open discussions regarding Cassidy Farm possibilities and our next step forward to be discussed at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10.43 AM

**Next COA Board Meeting: FRIDAY April 9,, 2021
9:00 AM– via ZOOM until further notice**

