

**COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Veteran's Memorial Building, Rm 19
2900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054
MEETING NOTES FROM March 10 2022 – Meeting**

This is a joint meeting with the PBC, members present: Wayne, Diane, Jim and Craig

CALL TO ORDER: Bert called meeting to order at 9:05AM

The following persons were present:, COA Director Patty Kayo, Helen Daly, Brooks Corl, Chris McCaffrey (remote), Bert Lannon, Lisette Walter, Bill Brown, Meredith St Sauveur

Information included per Wayne's request:

Total Mills Population as of 2022 -8930		
Residents 65 +		1922
Residents 5-18		1093
Per 2020 Mass Census		
Millis		Mass
Preschool	4.3%	5.2%
School age	13.9%	17.4%
Adult	53.9%	53.8%
60 +	27.9%	23.6%

Jim touched on the previous meeting between the PBC, Abacus and the COA (Patty and Helen in attendance)

- discussion included renovations to the existing VMB
- New building at the Cassidy Farm property
- Above plans were based on the programming list that was suggested by the COA, the Library and the Rec Dep
- 2 options @ Cassidy Farm building, one with a gym and one without

Wayne

- Programming defines what we build– space is built around this requirement
- All previous building handled by the PBC was handled in the same manor

Bert

- Will we be presenting to the Town as a Community Center or Senior Center? No – the Focus groups and the Community will make the decision based on facts that are presented to them

Wayne

- Our collective responsibility is to get the word out to the entire community – define working group and to define options – 28% of Millis population are seniors

Diane

- When the school was in process the Focus Group was given all options – no opinions from either the PBC or the school were given

Jim

- Abacus consultants will do the presentations

Bert

- The Senior Center in Franklin is run more as a Community Center

Meredith

- Concern about the cost of renovation the VMB due to its age and condition?

Wayne

- Restoring buildings has been his forte. In 96-97 he worked on the renovation of the VMB.

Diane

- Renovation will show the floor plan – the Sr. Center will not be in the basement according to the proposed plan by Abacus – this area will now be the 1st floor of the VMB – Rm 18 will now become part of the first floor. There will be additional parking.

Chris

- Comments that having Meredith in the meeting is good because she has questions that the Focus group will be hearing

Helen

- Will there be dedicated Senior Parking? Being here in the afternoon the parking lot of the VMB is jammed with cars of parents picking up children. How will this be made to change? Be prepared for blow-back from parents – Home School members are very active – will be vocal about parking and pick up.

Meredith

- She lives close by and has grandchildren attending. There was a battle about parking – the Spring St lot is Town property not school property – Police are in charge of parking there.

Diane

- The school will need to be included in the new plan for pick-up parking

Helen

- What will we do with Seniors– COA programming when the renovations are being made?

Wayne

- This is a matter they faced when the High School was undergoing renovation – it will be addressed

Patty

- As our next step forward is focused on an active Focus Group – how will they be formed – who will serve on them and how soon will they start?

Wayne

- Word needs to get out soon – before the summer vacation season starts (mid June).

Patty

- How will the presentation be made at the Town Meeting and by whom?

Bill

- If we build how long will it take?

Wayne

- If we start in 2023 it will take approx. 16 months to completed

Helen

- How do we reach those that are not yet seniors?

Wayne

- Town Hall can do mailings – will need list of all seniors on our mailing list (1621) newsletters go out monthly). A working group will set up a website, a page on Facebook, Town Meeting handouts, lawn signs

Jim

- Questions 1 floor at VMB vs 2 floors?

Wayne

- The 2 floor option determined by programming – more sq footage for the 2 floor option

Meredith

- Will the gym be renovated?

Chris

- The stairs in the gym **MUST** be fixed. We have had workers and voters fall down those steps in the past years – they are **VERY** dangerous!

Wayne

- The VMB has had heat and water damage issues which Mike and Karen are looking at as well as the entire building evaluated above and beyond the Senior Center questions.
- Point to be made:
- Impact on Taxes: For a cost of 12.5 million \$\$'s – average home cost \$225/yr

For a cost of 14.5 million \$\$'s – average home cost \$260/yr

For a cost of 18.8 million \$\$'s – average home cost \$337/yr

- Average home value of \$4632K

- Things to consider in addition to building or renovation costs are \$\$'s for additional operating hours and additional staff

Helen

- Have we thought about purchase of the house next door and expanding by using that land? Diane suggests that Joyce Boyardi may have info regarding that property.

Chris

- The PBC and the COA must be in agreement when presented to the Focus Group

Helen

- Other towns took 10 years from inception to finish – Wayne noted that we're already 2 ½ years into the process

Wayne

- We need to assign a communications group of 2 Board members of the COA and PBC to start a plan forward, to get Facebook and website up and running.

PBC part of meeting adjourned at 10:35

COA meeting resumes at 10:40

Secretary's Report

Change date of the St. Patrick's Day luncheon to 3/17

Otherwise Accepted as written

Treasurer's Report

- None available – Patty will complete and put copy in everyone's mailbox

HESSCO Report

- None as Elizabeth is not in attendance

Outreach Report:

- Busy with help for fuel assistance and Millis Fund
- Feb 2022 120 undup 322 dupe
- Feb 2021 27 undup 198 dupe

Director's Report:

- Patty received an estimate of \$6568.16 from contractor to replace the floor in Rm 18 – waiting for the contractor to schedule installation.
- Patty's waiting for a price and time estimate to replace freezer from the contractor – will advise when received.

Chairman's Report

- Agreed that the meeting with PBC was a good one – suggested that Elizabeth and Helen work on the new committee (Bert will do it if Elizabeth doesn't want to).

Old Business

- Triad – Norfolk Sheriff's office needs 3 persons – Bert the only volunteer. Patty has already put in the newsletter – will do again.
- Men's Club has been cancelled for the moment as the baseball league has delayed the start of the season. It will be addressed again as soon as baseball games begin.

New Business

- Please refer to PBC meeting notes.
- Rep Dooly is scheduled to be at the Senior Center this morning to discuss the circuit breaker tax.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM
Next COA Board Meeting: Thursday April 14, 2022
9:00 AM– Room 19