

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD
REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES
Veteran's Memorial Building, Rm 19
2900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054
MEETING NOTES FROM April 14, 2022 – Meeting

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
Bert Lannon, Lisette Walter, Bill Brown, Meredith ST Sauveur,
Guest: Ellen Rosenfeld

Secretary's Report
Accepted as written

Chairman's Report:

- Bert, Patty and Bill visited with Select Board and requested 5 additional hours for out outreach person – Another COA position will have 1st priority for next fiscal year

Ellen Rosenfeld spoke to the Board:

- Senior needs have been pushed aside
- What is the COA Board's responsibility? - she wants the COA Board to be more vocal
- Notes that Chief Soffner, Fire and School committee members go to meetings – suggests that the COA Board needs to advocate for the new Sr. Center
- If the new SR Center does not get passed then the High School needs will take over
- We should advocate for a Sr Ctr plus a Community needs center and noted that grants are available if there is an "Education Factor" involved with the center
- Tax rates will raise an avg of \$300/year – we can find a way to cover this raise??
- Elizabeth asks what would include a Community in our proposal – Ellen suggests something as simple as a Basketball Court
- Elizabeth – during COA hours we would have exclusive use of the facility – and it would be open to the community at other times.
- Ellen will be hosting a meeting at Niagra Hall or the Library on 4/21

Treasurer's Report

- None available – Patty will complete and will e-mail to Board members

HESSCO Report

- Right now 246 people are waiting for services through HESSCO in their region. The companies that provide the home services are still understaffed and struggling with wage issues.
- HESSCO has a full team of case managers. They waived the need for college degree and were more flexible on hours worked to get there. They are now focusing on training new staff.
- In the month of February Millis residents received 27.9K in services through HESSCO – 60% of that is in home health aides.
- The main topic of their meeting was "Consumer Directed Care". This is a program where seniors can hire and manage their own services, usually a family member. The senior would get qualified to use the program through HESSCO and a HESSCO case manager would set the hours per week an individual can hire someone for help. Eligibility is set by HESSCO – they also provide a service to help the care provider set up the financial portion of the service – getting paid, paying taxes and disability. The purpose is to give options to people waiting for care. In some cases HESSCO will require a surrogate be used to act in best interest of the senior and the surrogate is an unpaid position. The senior is

responsible for securing the surrogate. HESSCO is talking to 2-3 people a month about pursuing this option home health care. Anyone can contact a HESSCO information and referral specialist to inquire about eligibility.

Outreach Report:

- Busy - 152 people helped 475 times
- Fuel Assistance busy as well
- Referred cases to the Millis Fund over the past month
- We must stress that we handle "Community Outreach" not just for seniors
- Noted that the Millis Public Forum brings more people into the center than COA Facebook page

Director's Report:

- Patty has been busy with the Focus Group and Sandy will be out for 3 weeks
- Trip to NY cancelled – lack of interest, there are trips planned for August and September
- Decided to keep sending Newsletters out to everyone which will be important over the next few months
- Chris asked how many Glen residents are on our mailing list? Patty will check. At this time residents 60 years and older receive the newsletter
- Meredith asks if we can post copies of the newsletter at the Library, Roche's, Shaws or other business in town? Already posting at Library and Town Clerk.
- Bill noted it's discouraging how many people do not vote – Town meeting typically brings out approx.. 100- 200 people

Old Business

- Men's Club has been cancelled - there doesn't seem to be much interest – next newsletter will bring up need for suggestions from the male population as to what they would like to see offered

New Business

- Volunteer luncheon will be held at Sky Buffet , Milford on 5/20
- New things being offered are knitting, origami folding, walking group boxing workout
- Tri-Fold will be ready to be passed out at Town Meeting on 5/2 – volunteers needed to pass them out – Bert, Patty and Meredith will do it
- Election to be held on 5/9 – Patty will arrange for volunteers and advise schedule at next meeting.

5/12 at 2pm in RM 18 at VMB

5/24 at 7pm in RM 18 at VMB

6/7 at 2pm at Housing Authority meeting room

6/22 at 7pm at the Library

Meeting at the Glen has been requested

- Question of change in leadership at COA and rotation of Chairperson

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM
Next COA Board Meeting: Thursday May, 12, 2022
9:00 AM– Room 19