

**COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD**  
**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Veteran's Memorial Building, Rm 19**  
**2900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054**  
**MEETING NOTES FROM September 1, 2022 – Meeting**  
**REVISED**

CALL TO ORDER: Bert called meeting to order at 8:29 AM

The following persons were present:, COA Director Patty Kayo, Helen Daly, Bert Lannon, Bill Brown, Meredith St. Sauveur, Elizabeth Derwin, Chris McCaffrey, Brooks Corl, Debbie Sands, Ellen Rosenfeld, Wayne Klocko

Treasurer's Report

- No treasurer's report, figures not yet reconciled with last years

Secretary's Report

Accepted

The secretary apologizes that notes were hard to make as many conversations took place at this meeting. I've captured as much as possible.

HESSCO Report

- No HESSCO Report as they had no meeting

Outreach Report : Deb Sands reported:

- Avg in 2021 - 47 unduplicated and 236 duplicated
- Avg in 2022 – 161 unduplicated and 536 duplicated
- Most issues are related to housing issues – evictions
- Fuel assistance now beginning
- Received many Millis Fund referrals

Director's Report:

- New handicapped plates installed on large van
- Sink will be repaired this coming Friday
- Printer should arrive today at 1:30pm

Chairmen's Report

- Bert requests that the next newsletter states that Veteran's fee will be waived for all rides – transportation-revolving will cover the differences
- Meredith commented on the newsletter – she had been approached by many complaining that the font needs to be made larger and color would help
- Elizabeth suggests that a "Newsletter Working Group" be established. Meredith agrees to chair this group and Bill and Elizabeth have volunteered to assist

Regular meeting delayed so that the new Senior Center issue could be addressed:

- Ellen has spoken with Town Council, once the Selectboard members put an article on the warrant the Finance Comm can vote to dismiss
- 3 Citizen's Petitions were received on Aug 29<sup>th</sup> by the Millis Town Clerk:

1. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$3,500,000 or any other amount for pickleball & Tennis Courts on either Cassidy Farm or the Braun property
2. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$3,500,000 or any other amount for designing, upgrading, expanding, construction or otherwise renovating the senior center located at the VMB
3. To see if the Town will vote to appropriate \$2,900,000 or any other amount for the purpose of designing, upgrading, constructing and otherwise renovating the Lansing Millis building with the idea that the DPW and/or the Building Dept could be moved to this location

The above were brought by a Millis resident for open discussion and will need to be financed for a debt exclusion (Prop 2 override)

- Suggest that the above articles be brought at the very beginning for discussion and be dealt with before the Senior Center proposal is raised
- Also the school will be seeking 3 and ½ million
- It was suggested that the Senior Center proposal should be addressed at the Town Meeting as planned -
  1. So that we do not look arbitrary in our decision making
  2. It probably will not pass in November
  3. People need to recognize that this current facility is not acceptable
  4. We should go ahead with the 16 million proposal and give people the opportunity for discussions
- If the Cassidy Farm 16 million doesn't pass we would need funding to go back to Abacus to come up with a new proposal
- It was suggested that the COA take a strong position against the 3 proposals
- If these proposals get voted down they can be brought up again
- Could we pull our proposal and come back in the spring with new proposal less than the 16 million – NO
- It was stated that the Finance Comm needs to recommend this is a viable project (16 mil for 30 years @4.5%)
- Question raised asking if there are grants available for programming, not the structural costs?
- Elizabeth noted that people on the Forum are dead against the Senior Center – Wayne says we should ignore that discussion
- It was noted that the school committee will get support at the Town Meeting – we need to stress that this is our time as the Seniors have supported all other Town projects in the past
- It seems that everyone agrees that we need something – they don't like the options so far presented – question about the use of Rossi's and it was suggested that you could think of the Choate Park Building in Medway that they have saved as an historical property and use for Town functions.
- It was suggested that the COA Board should call a special meeting to discuss the above petitions
- It was suggested that the COA should take a definite stand against the petitions at Town Meeting – a member of the COA Board should speak up at that time
- Where will the money come from to fund the above petitions?
- 3 ½ million will not get the Senior Center out of the basement of VMB
- Can someone from the Facebook page make a motion to move the vote? NO
- If we move forward we could have discussion then pull it – our discussion items should be scripted
- It was noted that the three petitions could be brought back up at the end of the Town Meeting when everyone has left
- Members of the COA Board feel we should go through w/negative vote
- It was suggested that we should have 3 petitions posted on the COA website
- It was noted that the COA cannot put these forward
- Vote on Board opinion on the 3 petitions:

MOTION: COA does NOT support these 3 petitions – Unanimous approval

MOTION: COA will continue to move forward on the NOV primary – Unanimous approval

Bert announced that the next meeting of the COA Board will be held on Tuesday 9/13 at 1pm

New Business:

- BOH Health Fair will be held on 10/15 from 10am to 1pm – Lions will participate and the COA will have a table
- Police Dept has given Deb referral information

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM

**Next COA Board Meeting: Tuesday September 13, 2022 at 1:00 PM – Room 19**

**October meeting scheduled for 10/6**

**8:30 AM– Room 19**