

COA Board Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2023
9:00 AM

In Attendance: Bert Lannon (Chair), Helen Daly, Bill Brown, Meredith St. Sauveur, Elizabeth Derwin, Patty Kayo, Debbie Sand, Brooks Corl, Ellen Rosenfeld

- Selectboard member Ellen Rosenfeld joined the first few minutes of the meeting to let us know we should present to the Selectboard a fuller list of our **staffing needs**. Patty presented the need for a Program Manager at 29.5 hours to the Selectboard previously. The COA board recommends increasing the hours of the Department Assistant from 18 to 24 hours, and evaluating if the outreach worker position should include more hours. The board believes we should staff to offer more programs, longer hours, and more services. Patty will bring the board's recommendation to the town administrator.
- Minutes from the January meeting were accepted, and it was decided to post the December meeting minutes (even though there was not a quorum). The December **meeting minutes** were accepted.
- The department assistant (Sandy Moore) has given her notice and her last day is February 24. The **Department Assistant job has been posted**.
- The **Treasurer's report** was not available for the meeting and will be sent separately.
- Brooks gave an update on the **Friends' budget**. For the first 6 months of the fiscal year the Friends took in \$498 more than they spent. Donations and dues totaled \$6,687 and there was an additional \$4,677 collected in program fees. \$10,865 was spent on programs.
- **Outreach** – In January 168 individual people sought assistance a total of 524 times who were over 60 years of age. Ten people under the age of 60 sought assistance a total of 29 times. This compares to a total of 138 people and 442 total interactions a year ago. The primary drivers of the increase are fuel, food and housing. The State agency that processes fuel assistance is 5 months behind in processing applications and this is causing issues with people getting the fuel money they need. **The Community Resource Guide** is now available on the COA website. This was a large effort for Debbie to pull together, and it will be a valuable resource to our town.
- We discussed how we might divide up space in a **new Senior Center** if the activities were split between two sites. We looked at a spreadsheet of different rooms using the Cassidy Farm layout, and we are going to think about how we might divide activities and bring our thoughts to the next meeting.
- In April we will hold elections for the **board member positions**. Until then, our current positions remain in place. Other roles are:

HESSCO representative for the town - Elizabeth

Budget – coordinate with Friends, work on annual budget, track annual budget - Bert

Program offerings – this can be broken down into social, service, and well-being/health – Meredith and Bill

Outreach – being the board’s point person on outreach requests and services - Meredith
Communications – newsletter and any other communications meant for broad distribution - Meredith

Benchmarking other senior centers to see what they offer that might be a good fit for Millis - Helen

- **Lovin’ Spoonfuls** continues to be well received. They drop off on Monday and the items are distributed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Items include frozen meat, fresh vegetables, prepared meals and desserts.
- **St. Patrick’s Day** lunch is March 22nd. Entertainment is at noon, lunch at 1:00. We discussed how crowded and uncomfortable the Christmas lunch was and talked about holding catered lunches in the gym. Meredith is going to talk to the Rec Department about that. **Other upcoming events** include a Spring Basket craft class, RMV defensive driving class, Blue Cross presentation, Taxes in Retirement, Circuit Breaker tax provision, Historical portrayal performance.
- **Crafty ladies** will move to the dining area for their gatherings.
- Meredith has been developing a list of **possible day trip** sites with other regulars from the Sr. Center. We talked about using a small bus rather than a full size one (don’t need as many people to go on the trip). Meredith is going to contact a transportation company to check on that idea.

Action Items

- Everybody will bring ideas on how to divide up space for Sr Center programming to the March meeting
- Meredith will look into small buses for day trips
- Meredith will talk to the rec department about using the gym for large lunches

Next Meeting – March 9, 9:00 AM.

HESSCO update

- Both the Norfolk and Medfield Sr Centers had a burst pipe over the weekend. Medfield is in good shape, just waiting for Fire and Building inspections. Their flood was small and confined to a storage area. Millis has been helping Medfield with meal delivery this week. Norfolk’s issue is much larger. It’s unclear when they will be able to re-open. Meal distribution is being handled by Wrentham for now.
- The focus of today’s meeting was the “Frail Elder Waiver” program. This is a program run through MassHealth that allows medicaid recipients who are nursing home eligible to stay in their home with in-home services. This program is reviewed every 5 years. There is a proposal to add consumer directed care to this program, allowing people to find their own care (from family or neighbors) and have those services paid for by Medicaid. They

are also looking to expand Housing with Services (for those with disabilities), and shared living.

- In December, Millis residents received \$36K in services through HESSCO.