

COA Board Meeting Minutes

March 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

- One request was made to a change in the February minutes. The **minutes** were accepted with that change. The December meeting minutes were not posted. It was decided if there is not a quorum at a meeting, the minutes would not be posted.
- We discussed the Postage line in the **Treasurer's report** and noted that newsletter postage was reported in the Formula Grant and that will be reconciled. The Formula Grant amount can be rolled over from year-to-year. The Gift Account is money donated directly to the COA (not through the Friends).
- Patty announced that she is **retiring** April 24 (next month). Everyone congratulated her and wished her well. The board pledged to help in anyway we could while a new Director search begins.
- Next year's budget proposal for the center staffing is: 40 hours Director, 40 hours Program Manager, 18 hours transportation coordinator, 18 hours department assistant, 28 hours outreach.
- **Outreach** – In February 112 individual people sought assistance a total of 314 times who were over 60 years of age. Four people under the age of 60 sought assistance a total of 32 times. This compares to a total of 124 people and 331 total interactions a year ago. The biggest thing people are dealing with is the lag in fuel assistance – that agency is running 4 months behind. **The Community Resource Guide** has been well received, and HESSCO is sharing it with other towns. Also, the changes to the **newsletter** are being well received.
- If a **new Senior Center** requires us to split the space, we thought the best split is to leave exercise, HESSCO kitchen, and storage in the existing space, and offer programs, drop-in space, game room, dining, and craft room in the new space.
- We have 3 candidates for the **open position on the board**. Bert is going to invite them to come meet with board members either March 23rd or March 30th. We will then make a recommendation to the Select Board on which candidate we think best suits our current needs. We feel very fortunate to have so much interest in the position.
- Meredith is going to talk to people in Town Hall about getting more **storage space** at the end of the hallway. We also discussed using the area under the steps near the entrance.

Action Items

- Bert will set-up meeting times with board member candidates
- Meredith will look into storage space

Next Meeting – April 13, 9:00 AM.

HESSCO update

- The governor released a budget draft this week and it raises the annual state grant to COA's from \$12 a senior to \$14 a senior. If this goes through it would give Millis an additional \$4,600 in the formula grant we see on our budget. In addition to this Mass Home Care is advocating for increases the SHINE program, supportive housing, and senior nutrition programs.
- One of the bigger fund raisers for HESSCO is an annual St. Patrick's Day road race. This has been cancelled for the last 3 St. Patrick's Days, but is being run this Saturday. 466 people have registered and there are 35 sponsors. HESSCO is pleased with the participation.
- The new budgets start July 1, and HESSCO is anticipating an increase in the Home Care and Clinically Eligible for Nursing Facility rates. They are anticipating the rate for a health care worker will go from \$29.60 an hour to \$40 an hour (a 35% increase). This increase is to the agency, and the agency controls the rate of pay for the individual care provider, but it is hopeful this increase will result in more people returning to the position of Home Care helper.
- The closure of Brockton Hospital has put more pressure on health care for the elderly (on top of issues already existing from the closure of Norwood Hospital). It is even harder to get people into nursing homes because of the lack of beds.
- In February, Millis residents received \$37K of services from HESSCO providers.