

Arlington Council on Aging Meeting Minutes, October 18, 2018

Present: Jim Munsey, Paul Raia, Rick Fentin, Jill Greenlee, Christine Bongiorno, Mary Hung, Nancy Cox, Michael Quinn, Anne Brown, and Marge Vanderhill. BOS liaison: Joe Curro. Associates present: None

A. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Jim Munsey at 6:03PM on October 18, 2018, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

B. Welcome and introductions for new board members: Nancy Cox, Anne Brown, Mary Hung, and Michael Quinn.

C. Citizen's open forum: none.

D. COA Staff highlights: Urvi Agarwalla, COA nurse specializing in geriatrics, presented.

1. Currently, the focus has been on flu vaccinations at the Senior Center, Senior Housing, and the Retired Men's Club. Home visits were also made, and an evening clinic will be held Nov. 8, from 6-8pm at the Senior Center. The high dose vaccine is still available if needed.

2. Uri also runs blood pressure clinics and helps seniors manage their health care.

E. Minutes of the September 20, 2018, were approved. Jill so moved and Rick seconded.

F. Christine Bongiorno presented the ED report:

1. Driveway and Building updates: Edward Paige Corporation will be reconstructing the driveway with pre-mobilization/ staging work beginning on October 29th and continuing through November 30th. Christine and the contractor will be holding a pre-construction meeting on the 15th at 9 a.m. Christine will report back with more specific updates in relation to driveway circulation and parking/building entry restrictions. The restrictions will not impede the ability to do business, but will mean that one point of entry may be temporarily closed while paving work is in progress. Other building entrances will remain open.

2. Building envelope is being evaluated and repairs are being made. Bill Sterling from Sterling Associates will be asked to present the building plans in detail at the next COA board meeting.

A discussion followed regarding lifts for the handicapped in the renovated building.

3. Age Friendly update: The John Snowe Institute is currently doing a Community Needs Assessment. Christine will have them focus on Age Friendly. Paul suggested contacting Anita Albright regarding status of the AARP application. Two board members have agreed to participate in the Age Friendly process – Ann Fitzgerald and Anne Brown.

4. SEVOYAN DENTAL Request: \$10,000

The COA is seeking approval of a transfer of funds from the Sevoyan Fund. The maximum per fiscal year a participant may receive is a \$300 value. Payment is made directly to the dentist or oral surgeon. Individuals must meet the income criteria; it is the same for Minuteman Senior Services and cannot exceed \$22,000 for an individual.

SEVOYAN PERSONAL NEEDS Request: \$15,000

The COA is seeking approval of a transfer of funds from the Sevoyan Fund to serve Arlington seniors in their Personal Needs. This is not an emergency fund, but a fund that can assist with everyday living. Payment is made directly to the vender and no payment is made to the individual. Individuals must meet the income criteria; it is the same for Minuteman Senior Services and cannot exceed \$22,000 for an individual. Awards are capped at \$300 per fiscal year.

Following discussion, the amount of \$15k was changed to \$10,000 for personal needs. The board approved the transfer of funds for both requests at \$10,000 each. Marge so moved and Rick seconded.

5. The state EOEa has raised the amount given towns for seniors. Twelve dollars per senior now totals \$111,000 for Arlington.

6. The COA welcomes Alex Moschella as the new elder law attorney. On November 13, he will host a consult from 10-11:30am in the BOS room.

G. Report of the chair: Jim and Rick

1. There will be a sign up available for seniors for a senior T Charlie card in December.

2. Susan's absence has been felt at the Senior Center. Kudos to Christine and staff for coverage.

3. Rick expressed appreciation to the staff for recent articles in "The Arlington Advocate" highlighting the 5k race and new staff at the Center.

H. Minuteman Senior Services: Marge reporting

1. Minuteman is in the process of implementing the new EOEa Quality Improvement plan. There has been a shift from compliance to state standards to Quality Improvement. Standardization of data from all Aging Service Access Points (ASAP) is an EOEa goal, but this may not be the best for consumer evaluation.

2. The SHINE program director led a successful adult education program at LHS for 20 attendees.

3. MSS is working with communities to heighten awareness of suicide among seniors.

4. There are still vacancies on the Board in the communities of Boxborough, Woburn, Burlington, and Littleton.

I. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10pm.