

**Arlington Council on Aging**  
**Meeting Minutes, January 17, 2019**

**Present:** Jim Munsey, Paul Raia, Rick Fentin, Christine Bongiorno, Mary Hung, Nancy Cox, Michael Quinn, Anne Brown, Susan Carp, and Marge Vanderhill. BOS liaison: Joe Curro. Associates present: Bob Tosi, Anne Fitzgerald, and Karen Nichols.  
**Absent:** Jill Greenlee

A. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Jim Munsey at 6:00 PM on January 17, 2019, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

B. Citizen's open forum: none.

C. Minutes of the December 20, 2018, were approved. Nancy so moved and Michael seconded.

D. COA Staff: Lourie August, Social worker, twenty years at the COA

1. Changes in the demographics: there are now more seniors in their 90s and early 100s who are mobile and living independently. More couples are aging together. Many caregivers are in financial distress and seeking social welfare.
2. There are multiple and complex issues faced by users such as mental and physical needs, lack of ESL skills. etc. The staff are emotionally supportive, frequently act in an advisory capacity, and periodically do case management intervention.
3. The lack of affordable housing for seniors is becoming more of a problem. Property taxes are increasingly becoming a financial burden.

E. Executive Director Report: Susan has met with the staff following her absence. Everyone did extraordinary work while she was out.

F. Report of the Chair: Ridership of the van service has gone up. Advertising revenue on the van has been successful, and more is needed. Notices should be placed in senior housing highlighting van service. Ridership has been promoted by word of mouth. ACMI will also be used to spread the word.

G. Minuteman Report:

1. SHINE (Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) will be hiring a new director. Currently, the Arlington COA has three SHINE volunteer counsellors. All undergo sixty hours of training before they serve in their communities.
2. MSS needs to be more strategic so there is more cash on hand. Operational expectations are that we continue to provide services at only 75% of our Federal and state funding.
3. Boxborough, Burlington, Lexington, and Woburn, have vacancies on the Board.

## H. Old Business

1. Age Friendly: Shannon Murphy is applying for a grant of \$35k from Tufts for the first stage. Julie Flaherty, Acting Police Commissioner for the Town of Arlington, expressed interest in joining us at a future meeting.
2. Building Renovation:
  - a. July 1<sup>st</sup> offices will move to the second floor. 12-18 months for the renovation of the ground and first floors. The money has been appropriated.
  - b. The COA will partner with a professional in Capital Fund raising. The ASA Board will help to raise money for furnishings.

## I. New Business

1. Michael and Rick will work on getting out information on tax deferment and senior workoff. There are twenty slots for residents with a maximum of \$1500. Five slots are open for veterans with a cap of \$1000.
2. Paul reported that the Disability Committee would not support an informational program on the medicinal use of cannabis.

J. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02pm.