

Arlington Council on Aging Meeting Minutes September, 2020

Present: Michael Quinn, Nancy Cox, Anne Brown, Rick Fentin, Kristine Shah, Jill Greenlee, Mary Hung, and Marge Vanderhill. **Absent:** Pat Baillieul
Associates: Bob Tosi, Paul Raia, Anne Fitzgerald, and Karen Nichols.
ASA representative: Claire Foley

Public meetings are conducted remotely due to the COVID pandemic. This meeting was recorded.

- A. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Michael Quinn via Zoom at 6:03PM on September 17, 2020.
- B. Citizen's open forum: none
- C. Minutes of June 18, 2020, were approved. Rick so moved and Anne Brown seconded.
- D. Executive Director Report, Kristine Shah. Additional notes and comments:
 - 1. Nutrition and food access: Minuteman Senior Services donated \$25 gift cards for local farmers' markets.
 - 2. Virtual programs: 46 clients attended the podiatry clinic held outside on September 14. If weather permits, another clinic will be held in October.
 - 3. Construction: Construction continues with few glitches
 - 4. As of now, seniors are recommended to go to pharmacies or doctors for flu shots. The COA will partner with Walgreens for an outdoor option, weather permitting. The Housing Authority will have shots available. The nurse will go to the homes of shut-ins.
- E. Report of the Chair: none
- F. Minuteman Senior Services, Marge reporting:
 - 1. Six COAs lack a Board representative: Action, Boxborough, Harvard, Littleton, Stow, and Woburn.
 - 2. Kelly Magee Wright: Meal sites are operating daily and new paid drivers have been hired to deliver Meals on Wheels. Field based staff are working towards a transition of expanded face to face visits. The Nursing Home Ombudsman director has been responsible for any and all visits during the pandemic. The Money Management Program Manager has made home visits to support consumers.
 - 3. Reentry: Discussion of a hoteling model for 26 Crosby to ensure capacity.
- G. ASA Liaison: Claire Foley, reporting.
Board membership will remain as it is for now. Discussed future programming after construction.

H. Old Business: Open board position has been posted.

Town meeting: Michael will make the case to restore the Harry Barber grant of \$7500 which was cut from the COA.

I New Business

1. Sevoyan Update: 14k was requested as a fund transfer. The motion to approve was moved by Anne Brown, Jill Greenlee, seconded. Approval of the board was unanimous.
2. Rick Fenton expressed concern that the Property Tax deferral program has not been promoted by the town. Proposals were made to make another presentation via ZOOM, an article in the COA newsletter, and/or a program over ACMI.
3. The town Planning Dept. is working on Age Friendly projects.

J. Topics tabled for a later discussion:

1. Senior Housing residents need to pay \$60 per year for municipal parking pass. Can this fee be eliminated for seniors? The COA is paying the cost now.
2. Clients who are having difficulty in paying rent can receive help from the COA during COVID.

K. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2020.