

Board of the Council on Aging

Minutes

October 9, 2018

2019 JUL 24 AM 9:07

Present: P.Solomon, M. Cahalane, C. Lai, M Scali, C. Bunyon, T. Dukas, E. Hamann, J. Staton, T.

Olson. *Ex-officio*: Nava Niv-Vogel

Also in attendance was Dana Leavitt, COA Assistant Director

Absent: J. Semuels, J Singler

Call to order: M. Scali-7:00pm

Review of past meeting minutes: the minutes were accepted.

Senior Citizens Concerns - Brenda Madden and colleague presented " Nursing on Demand". This is a concierge nursing service the aids people with injury recovery chronic illness. This is a private pay service.

Treasurer's report: there is \$120 in the bank.

Dana Leavitt is the new assistant director.

She provided a verbal report of highlights of last month's programs which included the following:

Last Friday, a great Dane visited the center. The center is looking into other animals to visit the center. On October 23, there will be a chocolate tasting. Art Cohen has a speaking engagement on October 30. On October 17 at 11 AM, Patrice Garvin, the town administrator, will have a question-and-answer session in a program called "coffee and conversation".

Bentley Academic Center has a program on innovations in healthcare. A lawyer wishes to come talk. There will be a Mocktail event. There will be a cooking class at "sur La Table. There is a story project called "What's your story".

Updates and correspondence:

Director – There was a motor vehicle crash on Friday where a senior drove a car into the building. The damage was cosmetic. There were no programs permitted on Friday before building inspector had a chance to inspect the damage. The senior is fine.

In November, town offices may permanently be closed on Friday afternoons pending an upcoming vote on the matter by the Board of Selectmen. Originally this practice was to be a temporary arrangement from June to October. An on-call custodial service was provided, but we don't think it will work for us all year. A motion was passed to direct Nava to write a letter indicating that whatever the Board of Selectmen decide regarding closures of Town offices on Friday afternoons it is imperative that a custodian be on the premises at those times. This motion passed with unanimous vote of the board of the Council on Aging.

This director reported that The Library Building Committee wants to set up a similar account that we have on resident tax bills. This director advised that Committee on how to establish such an account. The one used by the COA is vital for major purchases for the center that cannot be funded through the town.

Of note, Belmont Manor is moving forward with an assisted living project on Pleasant Street. Andy Rojas, architect, is advising Belmont Manor. He will be asked to come to our meeting. There is a Board of Selectmen proposal to decrease the interest rate from 8 to 4.5% for seniors making \$58,000. This is the tax deferment program. This affects about 13 people in the town. This will be debated.

Springwell- The manager on evidence-based health promotion programs is leaving. This means that these programs will not be available to us. They included chronic disease, diabetes and pain management programs and "Powerful Tools for Caregivers" .

There have been problems with the new van. The engine light and traction control alert light comes on all the time. This is a retrofitted Dodge Caravan. It's retrofitted to be handicapped accessible. The DOT made calls to the company who sold this model vehicles to the state. The van has been in use, but we will need to rent a van when ours is in the shop for repairs.

We are going to get a federally funded part-time administrative worker for 20 hours per week. She will take over reservations for lunch and special projects.

The recreation department wants recreation software to be used here. If that request were to be granted anyone wanting to book rooms would have access to the center without the COA having control over use of those rooms. We reject the request.

C. Bunyon asked about the policy of eating in the lobby. She was concerned about aromas in the lobby. There is a microwave there. We have not forbidden food or drink. In fact, the area is called a cafe.

Friends – The Al Natale concert had over 200 attendees. On November 17 the annual crafts fair will take place from 9 AM to 3 PM. The Friends' board meeting will be held this coming Thursday at 7 PM.

Old Business:

The high school pool stair repair problem may be moot in light of the possible construction of a new high school . The superintendent didn't follow-up.

Board vacancy - Since Jim Staton is leaving in December, there will be a vacancy at that time. Two resumes have been passed around. We should let Nava know of people who are interested.

New Business:

We appointed a nominating committee consisting of T. Dukas, P. Soloman and J Staton. The committee will nominate board members Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer positions.

For November, there will be a discussion of an invitation to report at the Board of Selectmen meeting. This will be a good venue for the discussion of the application for the Age Friendly Network and the mission statement. There was a recommendation to send these to the Secretary or Chair of the Board of Selectmen to enhance discussion.

The Chair requested a health fair in the spring. We could have a presentation by case manager regarding hospital discharge planning programs.

The next meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on November 5.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Cahalane