

DATE: August 23, 2021

TIME: 9:44 AM

MINUTES COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

February 1, 2021

Present: Mark Paolillo, chair; Ted Dukas, Ethel Hamann, Chao-Qiang Lai, Tomi Olson, Andrea Paschal, Joel Semuels, Judy Singler, Maryann Scali, Ellen Sullivan, Margie Wayne; Nava Niv-Vogel, Director and Dana Leavitt, Assistant Director

The meeting was called to order at 8 pm.

The January Board minutes will be deferred until March Board meeting for approval.

Senior Center Concerns – Nava reminded the Board that the Senior Notes are available all over town telling what is going on in Belmont and on Facebook. There is concern over this year's tax bill.

Why an override? Mark Paolillo said there would be a zoom conference call meeting Friday, Feb 19 from 11 – 12:30 about the financial condition of the Town. It will explain why an override is needed offering information, fact sharing and have plenty of time for questions. This is strictly a factual meeting and will be recorded, so those who miss it can see it later. It will be presented by Mark Paolillo, and Selectman Tom Caputo.

Director's Report – In addition to her monthly report sent to Board members Nava said they are making a 2nd round of calls to every senior 75 and over using the Town list to check on how they are coping socially and emotionally. Follow up calls will be made if feel it is necessary.

Assistant Report – Dana mentioned that her goal is offer active programs that will help seniors be entertained and active in order to ease the stress of everything being closed down. February activities are offering AARP tax appointments beginning Feb 16, Cook's Corner episodes, a 2nd 4 part series on the history of China, Valentine's program, and multiple programs celebrating Black History month.

New Board member Andrea Paschal introduced.

COA Friends – Joel Semuels reported that there are 354 members so far this year, a slight increase over last year. The Fashion Show has been postponed to next year due to Covid. Stores don't want to have their clothes tried on by many different people. The next scheduled meeting is in June.

Springwell – Judy Singler reported that Springwell is trying to put together a pilot program of offering Covid vaccines for homebound seniors. Preferably it will be a single shot. This will be coordinated with local COAs.

There is no further update on the McLean Property's affordable and lower cost housing for seniors.

The new police chief Jamie MacIsaac will be invited to the March Board meeting. David Destefano is being offered the fire chief position.

Parking Permits for Seniors - The Select Board approved this as a pilot program. It will roll out in April and be tried until December for those 65 and older. This will cost \$5 for a year. This will be written about in the upcoming Friends newsletter.

Vaccines – A zoom call will try and be set up for this coming Friday to answer questions about the vaccine and what is being done. Some Belmont seniors have been taken to a site in Arlington. Nava hopes to have availability at the Senior Center in a few weeks.

The next COA Board meeting is scheduled for **March 1** at 7pm by zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Ethel Hamann

