

MINUTES
MILLBURY COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: April 21, 2021, 7:30 AM

Present: Lee Ayotte, Edna LaPan, Richard Townsend, Christine Bott, Karen Peltier, Marie Kosiba, Kevin Higginbottom and COA Executive Director Judith O'Connor

Absent: Stephen Walinsky, Stuart Mulhane, and Sarahbeth Persiani,

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM by the V. Chairman, at the Senior Center by using Zoom remote # 898 8262 1834

VOUCHERS:

Vouchers were signed at this meeting.

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the March minutes was made by Edna LaPan. Seconded by Marie Kosiba. Vote: unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE:

We received an email and a flyer in regards the Elder Law Education Program offered from the Mass Bar Assoc. They have received our request for an attorney to do a virtual presentation for the Senior Citizens of Millbury. We will be offering Chrome books for the elderly to use.

We received a letter from Catholic Charities regarding our participation in the Senior Community Service Employment Program. We will continue to look for a Senior Worker through this program and will assist in filling out a survey for the US Department of Labor.

We received an email from Jean McMurray, Exec. Director of the Worcester County Food Bank. She is requesting names of individuals to join the Board of Director for the Foodbank.

We received an email from the Worcester County Food Bank regarding a virtual Hunger Free Network Event on May 25th from 2:30 PM to 4:30 PM. They are asking for someone from our organization to attend.

We received an email from CMRPC regarding the Community Development Block Grant that they are getting ready to launch. They are looking for dates and times to schedule a virtual

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MILLBURY, MASS.
TOWN CLERK

meeting.

We received a flyer for the Elder Care virtual event to be held on May 3rd that is being presented by Central Mass Agency on Aging and Sheriff Lew Evangelidis.

We received a letter from FEMA announcing COVID-19 Funeral Assistance. Those families who lost a loved one to COVID can receive \$9,000. in funeral expense as long as they did not have a life insurance policy or a prepaid Funeral Plan. This program will start on April 15, 2021. This is being offered under Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021. This is for funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020.

STANDING REPORTS:

- A. Budget and Finance – The COA budget will go to Town Meeting as presented to the Town Manager and the Finance Committee.
- B. Personnel – Ms. O'Connor reported that a staff person has expressed interest in resigning after the summer.
- C. Nominating – Discussion was Tabled regarding the vacancy.
- D. Legislative – Discussion on the new Census figures and how it will affect the Formula Grant. EOEA has advised us to plan or level fund for the next F.Y. (\$12.00 per elder at the old Census figures).
- E. Senior Center Usage – No report
- F. Building Maintenance/Equipment – Ms. O'Connor reported that the gazebo is just about completed. The custodian will paint the outside and then put the screens back in. The HVAC repair has been scheduled and the entire hill in the garden will be mulched by Memorial Day.

Director's Report – Ms. O'Connor reported that the office staff continued to make appointments for those in need of a vaccine. We held a 2nd clinic here for those who needed a 2nd shot, with transportation provided. She is still doing weekly zooms calls with Elder Services, WRTA and MCOA. We are still offering “Grab and Go” meals daily. The food pantry hours are Monday through Friday from 9 AM to 1 PM. We are also delivering to families who are unable to come to the center to pick up. The transportation service has started to increase daily ridership. This is also still a free service until July 1st. She also met with the BOH and the Town Manager regarding the approximate possibility of opening the senior center for some limited activities. She started the billing process to CMRPC for the Traveling Memory Café grant. The exercise classes will start on Mondays and Fridays with

10 participants only (they must register in advance). The class will follow the BOH guidelines for safety. We will start BINGO outside on Wednesday's until we receive approval for larger group activities inside.

Chairman's Report – N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

Elder Services of Worcester/Nutrition Program – Ms. Peltier reported that Elder Services' Board meeting will be held next week.

Intergenerational Programs/Friendly Visitor - Ms. O'Connor reported that the students from Millbury High School's National Honor society will hold the game day on April 30th in the garden, The Students from the Assumption School are providing a gift card to all who attend. We are still looking for individuals to be part of the Friendly Visitor program through the telephone (weekly phone calls) reassurance program.

Elder Service Work-off Program – Ms. O'Connor reported that she put out a new news article to try and recruit new workers. She lost a few due to the pandemic.

Aging and Dementia Friendly Community Report: Ms. O'Connor reported that Ms. Persiani is setting up a new training date.

Covid-10 update: The staff has done approximately 1000 applications for the elderly and disabled in our Town to receive a vaccine. The Staff put in extra hours on the weekends as the process was extremely difficult. She is extremely proud of her entire staff for all their efforts.

NEW BUSINESS:

Senior center opening...The Town Manager was looking at May 17th to open the municipal buildings to the public, but now it looks like it will be June 1, 2021, A Covid-19 Plan must be in place before we are allowed to open. We are working with the BOH.

OTHER BUSINESS:


A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 AM was made by Lee Ayotte. Seconded by Marie Kosiba. Vote unanimous.

Next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May19, 2021 at 7:30 AM.


Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. O'Connor



Lee Ayotte


Christine Bott

Kevin Higginbottom



Marie Kosiba



Edna LaPan

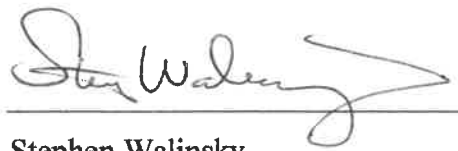

Stuart Mulhane

Joyce Sampson


Karen Peltier


Sarahbeth Persiani


Richard Townsend


Stephen Walinsky