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TOWN

MINUTES
MILLBURY COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Date: January 20, 2021, 7:30 AM

Present: Steve Walinsky, Edna LaPan, Stuart Mulhane, Sarahbeth Persiani, Richard Townsend, Christine Bott, Karen Peltier, Lee Ayotte, Joyce Sampson and COA Executive Director Judith O'Connor

Absent: Marie Kosiba and Kevin Higginbottom

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM by the Chairman, at the Senior Center by using Zoom remote # 853 9481 8508

VOUCHERS:

No Vouchers were signed at this meeting.

MINUTES:

A motion to accept the December minutes was made by Richard Townsend. Seconded by Stuart Mulhane. Vote: unanimous.

CORRESPONDENCE:

We received a letter from MCPHS Pharmacy Outreach Program offering assistance for the elderly to adhere to their medication regimens. They are offering a toll free number to have case managers and staff to review the prescription drug coverage. We will place this info in our monthly newsletter.

We received an e-mail from the Exec. Office of Elder Affairs reporting that the Commonwealth of Mass Department of Health and Human Services has added all home based healthcare workers to now receive COVIS-19 Vaccine. This includes COA's, Shine workers and Nutrition workers.

A thank you letter from Catholic Charities was received for the donation made by the "Friends" for the Thanksgiving and Christmas meals that were delivered to the home bound in the Town.

We received an e-mail from Worcester District Attorney Joseph Early announcing his new senior outreach program director, Kevin Donohue.

We received an e-mail stating that Paula Owens was leaving as editor of the Millbury Sutton Chronicle effective immediately. The new editor will be Kristen Payson. All news article will now go to her.

STANDING REPORTS:

- A. Budget and Finance – Ms. O'Connor met with the Town manager regarding the budget. Everything was level funded with the exception of salaries. She has also requested that the current staff changes be made; Jr. Clerk advance to General Clerk and the General Clerk advance to Head Clerk. Both jobs have had added extra work assignments due to the absence of a staff member being out for 7 months. The COA office has remained open for service since the start of the pandemic. It is still closed to the public, but open by appointment only. All services have continued except those social activities held in the building.
- B. Personnel – Ms. O'Connor reported that a letter was sent to the Head Clerk, from HR, regarding termination. All accrued time has been used and the employee is unable to return to work. The new Program Administrator has started on Jan. 12th.
- C. Nominating – N/A
- D. Legislative – Waiting on the Governor's final budget.
- E. Senior Center Usage – No requests at this time.
- F. Building Maintenance/Equipment – Mr. Walinsky reported that the custodian had some concerns about the 2 windows in the craft room. Ms. O'Connor explained that the windows have a life time guarantee and she will look up the information for replacement if needed.

Director's Report – Ms. O'Connor reported the traveling Memory café has seen 24 Clients this past month. We have started our quarterly reporting to CMRPC regarding the program. We are still offering "Grab and Go" meals daily. We delivered 95 individual meals for Christmas. We also provided 5 Holiday Food baskets. The food pantry is still extremely busy and we are doing an average of 52 families a month. 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. We had a visit from the Sheriff's outreach program. They brought 20 goodie bags to give out. Ms. O'Connor also reported that the daily phone calls have increased for information, referrals, transportation and meal requests. Bank Hometown gave the food pantry a donation of \$2,300. They are once again sponsoring the Fuel Assistance Program for the needy in the Town of Millbury. Ms. O'Connor will be taking application by appointment only, until May 1, 2021. For an event to cheer the elderly, we are having a Valentine's Treat "Grab and Go" on Feb. 12th. This is in place of the annual Lions

Club dinner. The bags are being filled with gifts from area businesses. There will be no free tax preparation services available here this year and we are still unsure about the Worcester Senior Center being a site. That site closed in March of 2020 and never opened up again. This program was being sponsored by AARP.

Chairman's Report – Mr. Walinsky reported that the budget sub-committee sent a letter to the town manager regarding support of a salary increase for the Executive Director and the proposed changes to the current office staff.

OLD BUSINESS:

Elder Services of Worcester/Nutrition Program – Ms. Peltier reported that the Meals on Wheels clients has increased. They are sending weekly covid-19 reports to all COA's. They are also giving all the staff of Elder Service a bonus of \$435.00 per employee. Ms. O'Connor was concerned that the Meals on Wheels drivers and the nutrition workers at the Millbury site would not be getting any bonuses. This is because they are volunteers and not employees. She would like to see them (volunteers) receive something from this extra Cares Act money.

Intergenerational Programs/Friendly Visitor - Ms. O'Connor reported that Ms. Fitzgerald is making outreach calls to all those who have attended programs at the center to see how they are doing, and if they would like a Friendly visitor. We are looking to get the National Honor students to do another event for our elderly.

Elder Service Work-off Program – Ms. O'Connor reported that this program is going well and we have 9 Senior Workers in several town offices. She added one new person to this program.

Aging and Dementia Friendly Community Report: Ms. Persiani reported that she was trying to keep the interest up with this committee. She has a save the date for April 16th for a forum. She will contract all the members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ms. O'Connor is looking into having our new staff person trained to be a SHINE representative. They are looking for people to be trained to assist at the COA sites, and she would be at our site only.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Covid-19 update: Ms. O'Connor explained that we are still closed to the public but are open by appointment only. We have not added anything new to the current services that we provide.


A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 AM was made by Richard Townsend Seconded by Lee Ayotte. Vote unanimous

Next Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. O'Connor

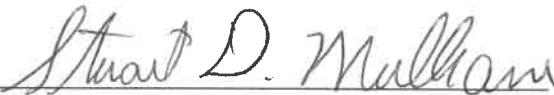
Lee Ayotte


Christine Bott

Kevin Higginbottom

Marie Kosiba

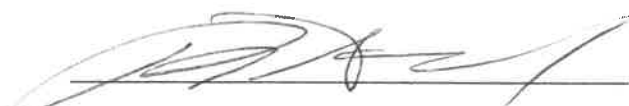

Edna LaPan


Stuart Mulhane

Joyce Sampson

Karen Peltier

Sarabeth Persiani


Richard Townsend

Stephen Walinsky

Millbury Council on Aging Board of Directors Minutes – January 20, 2021

The following members attended the meeting by Zoom
Karen Peltier and Sarabeth Persiani