

Minutes for COA Meeting for Wednesday, July 13, 2020

Minutes of the Council on Aging held: Monday, July 13, 2020, at 9:30am. Google Hangout, Shrewsbury, MA 01545

Members in attendance: Board Chairperson Louise Russell, Vice Chairperson Shashi Menon, Zoya Mehta, Cliff Gerber, Barbara DePalo

Staff in attendance: Director of COA Hollie Lucht, Administration Assistant Christine Moriarty, Donna Messier, Transportation Coordinator Cynthia Willis.

Patricia Babin, Norma Giumentaro, and Virginia Leonard and did not attend today.

1. Call to order at 9:30am followed by roll call for attendance.
2. Review and act to accept minutes for June 10, 2020.
3. Christine Moriarty reviewed the Financial and Budget Reports.

The General Fund- Operating Expenses- has a balance of \$3059.02.

The Formula Grant has a balance of \$0. Office Furniture was purchased recently with this Grant and will arrive at the end of July.

The Gift Account has a balance of \$45,424.62. A discussion will be added to the August agenda on our donation of funds to the Memory Cafe and possibly having the Cafe be on cable TV.

The Revolving Account- Vans- has a balance of \$18,929.33 with a pending cost of \$1,700.00 for the Clear Shield for the van.

4. Cynthia Willis reviewed the transportation items. The Van Service started back in use on June 15. After each client the van is cleaned and on Friday a professional disinfectant is applied. A

90 day supply for PPE is supplied by WRTA and the Fire Department CARE act. Hollie plans to hire two more part time van drivers in the near future.

5. The FY21 August Budget was reviewed.

6. Hollie Lucht presented her Director Report.

She shared the news of a possible new van for the COA from WRTA. The Shrewsbury fleet manager will inspect the van. If it passes inspection it will be approved and sent to Shrewsbury. The van has 52,000 miles on it. This would bring our fleet back up to 4. (One van is not working presently.) The matching funds needed for this van were given to us as a donation.

Elder Affairs donated 40 boxes of frozen chicken nuggets and mozzarella sticks to the Senior Center a month ago. This month the plan is to donate 50 boxes of frozen chicken nuggets, mozzarella sticks, hotdogs and chicken patties. Last month Hollie gave most of this to the Food Pantry and to Meals on Wheels because we do not have enough freezer space. If kept in the refrigerator the food will spoil after a time. A vote was taken and passed by all on the purchase/lease of a freezer to help with storage of these frozen food items. The money will come out of the Gift Fund.

A new program named 'Connect and Assist' will be started this Fall by Hollie and staff. The intention is to reach out and connect with the community to help with food, medical equipment, application assistance and other needs. To help spread the news we will put the information in newsletters and distribute door-hanging pamphlets that highlight what the Senior Center offers. Hollie has applied for a grant of \$18,000.00 to help run the program. In December we will hear back from the grant committee.

The Grab and Go program, for meals picked up at the Senior Center, started July 7 with good success. Hollie suggested that in the future we use Gift Fund money to pay for a free month. This would help us gather real data on our community needs for food. Presently there is a donation of \$2.50 a meal. If someone cannot pay they receive the meal for free.

A discussion was held on using Gift Fund money to purchase, or asking the community for donations, of crossword puzzles and word puzzles. These would be distributed with Meals on Wheels and be available at the Senior Center. Hollie received great feedback about the crossword puzzle in the last newsletter.

The SYFS Assessment Report will be discussed in the August COA meeting. Zoya Mehta volunteered to join the Zoom meeting for the discussion of this assessment report.

Hollie asked all to send her Senior Center pictures and information for our 20th Celebration of our Senior Center Video. Marc Serra will assist in this project.

7. A vote was taken by the COA members regarding the CPA act. The result was 3 to 2 in favor of supporting the CPA act.
8. The Feasibility Study will be on the August agenda.
9. A vote to accept Shashi Menon as Chair, Zoya Mehta as Vice Chair and Barbara DePalo as Secretary was taken and passes by all.
10. Everyone thanked Louise Russell for her excellent leadership and hard work as our Chair.
11. Adjourn, respectively, Barbara DePalo, Secretary COA