

Needham Council on Aging Board Meeting

November 10, 2022

Present: Penny Grossman, Vice Chair, Helen Gregory, Sandra Prinn, Ed Cosgrove, Carol de Lemos, Kathy Whitney, Sue Mullaney, Dan Goldberg, Ted Prorok, VFW representative

COA: Latanya Steele, Director, Jill McGovern, Social Work, Aicha Kelley, Programming

Health and Human Services Director: Timothy Muir McDonald

Guests: Carol Ditmor, Beverly Pavasaris, Friends of the Cath

SHINE: Michelle Gucciardi, Director

1. Meeting called to order by Ms. Grossman, Vice Chair at 5:10 pm combination of in person and on Zoom

2. Aging Services Division Report

Ms. Steele added that MCOA training on SNAP program is continuing and open to all Board members. She will check on additional dates. The other updates are in the Board report.

a. Social Work Report, Ms. Jill McGovern

Kerri Cusack has returned from maternity leave.

Jess Moss left for maternity leave on October 28.

The social work group met with the B, H & A architecture team to explain their wishes, hear about design ideas and what is realistic as far as the workflow needs.

Social work is offering an 8-week short term mental health bridge program due to the nationwide shortage of clinicians. They are maintaining a wait list.

The social work team has held two more coffee hours, one at Linden Chambers and one at Seabeds.

Ms. McGovern is happy to report they are partnering with the new Needham Housing Authority director and having monthly meetings with her.

They are also maintaining the monthly collaboration with Youth and Family Services facilitated by the clinical consultant **Roana** who is also providing individual staff training.

Jess Moss hosted the Homeless Prevention Task Force just before leaving on maternity leave; the next meeting will include clergy representation.

The zoom Bereavement group is on pause since the weekly group with Nicci has returned in person.

The MetroWest Home Allocation program in conjunction with AARP was facilitated by Ms. Moss-this is a onetime fund to address housing concerns.

b. Programming Report, Ms. Aicha Kelley

She noted the department continues to be busy with attendance up and the parking wars have begun again.

New drop-in games Canesta and Mahjong have started. Bingo on Wednesday and Friday's is very popular and there are more guests from Wellesley, Dover and Newton participating.

Social isolation remains a problem for the Needham seniors living alone. Lunch chat with

Debbie has been popular, the out to dinner program for LGBTQ+ has gone well. Partners Lunch and Learn with Wingate on healthy aging and the brain filled the large room on November 9.

The MetroWest Legal clinic is fully registered for two months.

Sandy's chair yoga class continues on Zoom with 54 which is an example of her popularity and

could never be accommodated in person.

October programming that was all well attended include the Halloween program about Lizzie Borden, a new program with Joy on Baja Mexico and a fashion show with a Downton Abbey theme, as well as Frank King's music program.

Ms. Kelley noted that on the State level the veteran's affairs officer has not been replaced. The State has stepped in with some assessment filing help.

Ms. Kelley thanked the front desk for being so responsive and assisting with paper shredding program, the informational calls and check ins.

She also noted the new van driver Deb Marcus has started and a shopping trip to Trader's Joes will resume soon.

Programming numbers are being kept with a combination of "my senior center" software and hand counts.

c. SHINE REPORT, Ms. Michelle Gucciardi, Director

Ms. Gucciardi noted that they are handling a lot of appointments for open enrollment. 650 so far. Ms. Gucciardi thanked Ms. Annie Toth administrative assistant for her professional, thoughtful help in scheduling all the appointments.

She noted they are using the computer room on Mondays and Thursdays and the counseling office 5 days a week to handle appointments.

There are still a few reservations open for November and open enrollment ends December 7th. She noted that out of towners enjoy seeing the Center.

3. Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Cosgrove to approve the September 8 minutes. Ms. Gregory seconded. The September minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Ms. Gregory noted the date for the next Housing Committee meeting needed to be changed from November 17 to November 16 in the October minutes. The change was made. **A motion was made by Mr. Goldberg to approve the amended October 13 minutes. Mr. Cosgrove seconded. The amended October minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote.**

4. Update on the Housing Plan Working Group, Ms. Helen Gregory

Ms. Gregory noted that the next meeting is November 16 7-9 pm in Powers Hall and on Zoom. The meeting will present the draft Housing plan. The residents will have until November 23 to respond in writing. The working group will be meeting again after the comments are received.

5. VFW Representative Report, Mr. Ted Prorok

Mr. Prorok noted that the VFW Post Commander will address the 2018 law for 1 Veteran's reserved parking space at Town Hall. If the request is brought before a future COA Board meeting the Board will vote on the request.

Mr. Prorok made a request for Ms. Kelley to check the availability and date for the annual police holiday dinner, normally in December.

Mr. Prorok noted he has not heard back from the head of DPW, Mr. Greg Smith, on his inquiry of October 25th re: the flag recycling bin status update. Mr. Prorok will update the Board when he receives a status update.

6. Friends of the Cath Board Report

The Friends noted they are organizing a January gathering to thank and celebrate the work of the CATH staff.

7. Old Business

Ms. Schaller sent the Board's Avery Project letter after the October meeting and received notice from the Selectboard of its receipt.

Mr. Goldberg noted that the revised Balfour plan for Avery was not on the November or December planning board meeting schedule so he thought it would take them a few months to revise the plan given the objections to the lack of independent living in the original plan.

Ms. Grossman noted that the Exchange Club volunteer day to help with small handyman projects was a great success. She had two things done in her home. Ms. Steele noted they had received many compliments and the program will be repeated. Ms. Whitney mentioned reaching out to Rotary as well for more volunteers.

Ms. Gregory expressed gratitude for the forward-thinking efforts on the part of those who initiated the CATH space study. Following the October presentation, she had a much better understanding of the need for this proactive work.

New Business

Ms. Steele noted the Thanksgiving dinner is November 17 and there are 100 people signed up so far.

Ms. Whitney noted that the Community Council has 320 signed up for their delivered dinner with a capacity of 350.

8. Ms. Grossman requested a Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Cosgrove made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Mullaney seconded this motion. The board unanimously adjourned at 5:40 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Faith Crisley

Recording Secretary