

Needham Council on Aging Board Meeting

December 9, 2021

Present: Colleen Schaller, Chair; Dan Goldberg, Sue Mullaney, Helen Gregory, Ed Cosgrove, Lianne Relich, Penny Grossman, Sandra Prinn, Carol deLemos

COA: Jessica Moss, Social Work, Latanya Steele, Director

Friends of the Center at the Heights: Carol Ditmore, Anne Brain

Other Attendees: Kathy Whitney, COA appointee nominee at-large; Ted Prorok, Library Trustees appointee nominee representing the Veterans

Meeting called to order by Ms. Schaller Board Chair at 5:05 pm combination of in person and on Zoom.

Ms. Schaller introduced the new administrative assistant, Annie Toth.

Ms. Schaller introduced the two Friends members who meet the first Friday of each month and they spoke briefly about fundraising for the COA and we appreciate the continuity of Ms. Schaller sharing information at their meetings.

Social Work Report Jess noted that the new clinician begins December 13 her name is Jill McGovern and she has background as a geriatric care manager most recently at Wingate. Kristin Linley is providing cross training remotely as part of onboarding.

Jess also noted she is working with Sara Shine, Director of Youth and Family Services on hiring an outside consultant to provide clinical supervisory training from the \$4000.00 MetroWest grant. COVID has increased the mental health needs and a lack of counselors across the community will help staff provide an access point while clients wait for long term counseling.

Ms. Latanya Steele, Director's Report

Ms. Steele noted the rotted shutters will finally be removed either December 13 or 14.

The dishwasher will also be serviced on one of these two days.

She is working on locating someone that can repair the stove.

Ms. Steele noted that EOEA training for LGBTQ issues is being discussed. The training will either take place online or as a group. She noted the Board is also required to complete the training because we receive State funding.

Mr. Goldberg asked again about online course registration. He noted his pet peeve for two years is not being able to pay on-line. Ms. Steele noted that My Req is not HIPAA compliant so social workers have to use My Senior Center. Jess noted that this compliance will be built out over a year based on our most recent meeting with the My Req representatives. My Req system is good for programming and accepting payments. Ms. Steele noted that the transportation program is also using a different software.

Ms. Steele Presented Ms. Kelley's Programming Report

53 residents have used the fitness room.

Steven and Lisa are brainstorming January new programs.

The Zoom programming continues to go well.

Jennifer is doing a great job on producing the Compass.

The next mailing is December 13 at 9:30 am and Board members were asked to help label.

She noted that sponsorship continues from Avita, Needham Housing Authority, Needham Police, the Needham Exchange Club and Needham/Newton Chamber of Commerce.

SHINE

Kathy Worhach spoke on Zoom that December 31, 2021, will be her last day as SHINE Coordinator. She noted she is leaving the program in good hands with Michelle who has two master's degrees one of which is in geriatric social work. Kathy has appreciated all the support from the Town of Needham. She will help out until a second person is hired.

She noted that Medicare open enrollment has ended. The data is not final but so far, they have served more than 2020 town residents which is more than last year. Final numbers will be available end of January.

Ms. Schaller thanked Kathy on behalf of the Board and noted that she will be missed.

Minutes

Ms. Schaller noted two changes need to be made. Two amendments were made on p. 2 Issues of Programming should read "a program on **reverse** mortgages". On p. 3 change to Ms. Schaller **will ask** Jaime on the accreditation report.

A motion to approve the November 4th minutes as amended was made by Ed and seconded by Penny. Unanimous vote to approve the minutes as amended.

Another motion was made to appoint a **Chair for the Advisory Committee**. The nomination is for Sam Hart to become advisory chair. The motion was made by Penny and seconded by Ed. Unanimous motion to approve Mr. Hart's appointment with the appointment to take effect immediately.

Ms. Schaller noted that there was a request from the Art Association to move the wiring system for hanging art downstairs. Presently it on the second floor and they would like to move it downstairs into the cafeteria. There are two solid walls in the cafeteria. A discussion ensued and it was thought that new wiring rather than moving old wiring might be a better solution. Ed noted fixing the holes on the second floor will be an issue. Ms. Steele will get installation information with prices. The Friends can fund raise once the COA has quote(s) and once the Art Committee weighs in on the best plan.

Ms. Schaller noted the rodent problem. The trash is not being picked up on a regular schedule by the outside contractor; the Town has not replaced the metal lid on the dumpster nor have they replaced the door on the side. Board of Health has been notified by Ed. DPW has recommended moth balls on the

engines of the vans where the rodents are going for shelter at night but a better solution is needed so as to not cause van damage. DPW is looking into the rodent problem. The Board will be updated in January.

Ted Prorock spoke about his interests in veterans of all ages and would like to know more about the Town's support based on what is raised at the Board. He notes he has ideas from other towns senior centers that he will raise if appointed.

Helen does not have an update on housing issues but the committee will meet again later tonight. Dan asked her to look into Opus Newton. It is a new 184 unit building on the campus of the JCC; instead of continuing care community, the idea is you obtain get an apartment with services and stay in it for the rest of your life. He is not sure about the fee structure but worth looking into as it is different from other expensive communities. The goal is to meet moderate income needs.

Ms. Schaller asked for a motion to adjourn. Ed made the motion to adjourn; Carol seconded. The board unanimously adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted, Faith Crisley, Recording Secretary