

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING
Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held on
June 8, 2023

at the Community Center and via Zoom

Members Present: William Byron, Ruth Delmonico, Charlie Aaronson, Jeanne Genereux; Associate member: Brian Burke

Absent: Members: Al Arthur, Kathy O'Brien; Associate members: Kate Hogan, George Nisotel, and June Thall

The Director of the COA, Alyson Toole, was present.

Both Brian O'Sullivan and Kathleen Surdan will give their reports in person.

The Minutes of May 11 were accepted with one clarification; under the Director's Report, Jeanne Genereux and her husband are part of the Garden Committee that maintains St. Isadore's vegetable garden.

Liaison Reports:

Community Preservation Committee, Charlie Aaronson - There was no meeting this month. Charlie is looking for a replacement which we'll put on hold until the fall.

Minuteman Senior Services, Charlie Aaronson -

- Minuteman is planning to hire a Resident Coordinator for Plantation similar to those in Concord and Lexington.
- Charlie spoke to a number of residents. Lack of proper maintenance seems to be the biggest issue.
- The property manager appears not to be doing his job.
- Vickie Blake is on the Stow Elderly Housing Committee and should be informed of the problems.
- The COA should be involved.
- Plantation II will have more services available. The Resident Coordinator will advise and support residents, also make referrals.
- Kathleen will write a letter to the Housing Committee expressing the concern the residents have expressed, and an interest in attending a Board meeting.

Community Services Coordinator, Brian O'Sullivan

- In April, Brian had the largest number of contacts thus far, 100.
- Many of the problems are long term issues. The SWAT team came out due to a mental health crisis.
- Housing is a major problem; there are some eviction notices due to the withdrawal of the Federal government's support during Covid.

Outreach Report - Kathleen Surdan

- Still getting many calls and people drop in without an appointment. We try to accommodate people as best we can.
- Nothing is ever simple!
- For those who qualify, there is free internet. Justin has helped with the application process. He's in every Tuesday.
- There have been twice as many home visits lately, but quite a few are for birthday cake deliveries.
- The COA is offering many great events, and the attendance has been high.

Chair's Report - Bill Byron

Due to the Board absences, the slate of officers for the COA Board will be chosen at our September meeting.

Director's Report - Alyson Toole

- We have been advertising for a replacement Outreach person. There was only one applicant and he/she withdrew. We've received two new applications. We hope to hire someone soon.
- Serve Safe, safe food handling, will be offered on June 14th, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM. The fee is \$160 per person and the certification lasts for 5 years.
- Vehicles -
 1. The Highway Dept. mechanic is excellent. He's very good at assessing the problem.
 2. The mini-van had no value so Alyson shopped around and sold it for parts to the New American Used Auto Parts in Worcester for \$450.
 3. Dave spoke to Peter Christmas of Christmas Motors regarding our search for a mini-van. The "Friends" said they will finance.
- Conservation walks will continue.
- Van Shelter - The Building and Highway departments are coordinating their efforts.
- The Killdeer that was nesting on the stones near the building has left and the baby birds have fledged.
- We're doing an inventory of supplies to see what needs to be purchased before the end of the fiscal year.
- May Statistics -

Total People Served - 2673 duplicated; 369 unduplicated

% Female - 67.9 % Male - 32.1

Average Number signing in daily - 62

Telephone calls - 781

Most Popular - Food, Exercise

Interactions/Services provided by Staff - 268

Most Provided Services - transportation, general help,
donations, fitness

Transportation - Rides - 281 Riders - 47

Volunteers and Tax Work-off - 153

The Friends of the COA is building back up. Plans for the Craft
Fair in November and the "Second Chance" Christmas Fair in
December. They are ready to support the needs of the COA.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting ended at
11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth A. Delmonico, secretary