

**COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING**  
**Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held on**  
**May 11, 2023**

**at the Community Center and via Zoom**

**Members Present:** William Byron, Ruth Delmonico, Charlie Aaronson, Jeanne Genereux, Kathy O'Brien, Al Arthur; Associate member: Brian Burke, George Nisotel

**Absent:** Associate members: Kate Hogan, 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.

**Liaison Reports:**

**Community Preservation Committee,** Charlie Aaronson - The Committee reviewed the article for the Town Meeting Warrant. There are no new projects **yet** for the next fiscal year. Charlie again mentioned he would like to step down as representative of the CPC.

**Minuteman Senior Services,** Charlie Aaronson - They just moved, nothing new to report. The virtual walk begins on May 21st with a \$35 entrance fee.

**Outreach Report - Kathleen Surdan**

- Jim Brown as representative of AARP provided tax help for many.
- Fuel assistance ends on May 15th; fuel delivery had to be before April 30th.
- There have been a number of calls from seniors and their families wanting to move closer to their relatives. It is very difficult to find low income housing, long wait times.
- Events are well attended. New walking group is visiting local conservation lands.
- Trying to encourage more people to enjoy lunch on Tuesday and Thursday.

**Community Services Coordinator, Brian O'Sullivan -**

- The Housing Board meets monthly. The letter requesting attendance at the next meeting wasn't sent. It just wasn't the right time.
- Many problems are ongoing.
- Housing is a big issue.
- There's been domestic violence, but the police and social worker seem to be handling the situations.

- Brian's new Men's group has had a good response. They discuss a number of different topics.
- There's also a new bike group.
- If there's a need for a support group, outside leaders would be contacted to conduct meetings. Our staff is too small to handle additional programs.

### **Chair's Report - Bill Byron**

George Nisotel would like to fill the vacancy on the Board. The Board supports him. He should write a letter to the Select Board expressing his interest.

### **Director's Report - Alyson Toole**

- Outreach worker, Susan McNulty, resigned. It was not a good fit for her.
- Serve Safe - It is a required class for staff every 5 years. It's an all day class. Safe food handling is presented in the morning with a written test in the afternoon. The cost is \$160 per person with the sixth person is free. Staff from Serve Safe comes here. The certification lasts for 5 years.
- Vehicles
  1. Highway Department will do oil changes; and when there's a repair needed, they are willing to assess the situation.
  2. The 20 passenger van has a broken wheelchair lift; highway will find information about it.
  3. Mini-van - We don't want to burden the town. We're looking into other options. Grants are not available.
- We're offering conservation walks.
- Denise said the van shelter will take priority after Town Meeting.
- COA Board training filled up quickly. Some members are going to Fitchburg on May 18.
- A killdeer made a nest on the stones on the side of the building. People were concerned about its safety. The area was roped off to protect the bird.
- Member, Jeanne, and her husband are part of the Garden Committee that maintain a garden at St. Isadore's. They would like to donate produce to the COA.
- Statistics for April 2023:
  1. Total people served - 2247 duplicated
  2. Total people served - 376 unduplicated

3. % Female - 68.6      % Male 31.4
4. Average # of people signing in daily - 61.74
5. Telephone calls - 651
6. Most popular activities - Food, Exercise
7. Interactions/Services provided by COA Staff - 222 duplicated
8. Most provided services - transportation, general help, donations, fitness
9. Transportation - 255 rides   Riders - 55
10. Volunteers and Tax Work Off - 242

At the end of the meeting, there were several questions from the Board.

Will the COA have a booth at Springfest? - No

Will the COA go to see the WooSox? - July

Do we have to be reappointed - No

Charlie again asked the Board for a replacement. The Community Preservation Committee meets the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the Month. It will be on the June agenda.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The meeting ended at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth A. Delmonico, secretary