

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING
Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held on
April 13, 2023

at the Community Center and via Zoom

Members Present: William Byron, Ruth Delmonico, Charlie Aaronson, Kathy O'Brien, Associate member: George Nisotel

Absent: Members: Al Arthur and Jeanne Genereux and Associate members: Brian Burke, 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 had no report since he was away, but would like to find a replacement since he no longer has time to devote to the CPC.

Minuteman Senior Services, Charlie Aaronson

- Betsey Crimmins is the new Executive Director of Massachusetts Home Care. She was a former member of The Greater Boston Legal Services.
- On April 18, Minuteman is moving to Burlington.
- During May 20 - 29, Minuteman is having a 5K virtual walk fundraiser, "Spring Forward." There is a \$35 registration fee. The first 100 registrants will receive a "swag bag."
- The Senior Conference is April 20. You can learn about the local resources. It is free of charge, but one must register.
- There's a gun buy-back program in Acton.
- Minuteman is seeking volunteers for 'meals on wheels,' friendly visitors, and money management.

Community Services Coordinator, Brian O'Sullivan:

- In his report, Brian mentioned he had three times the average contacts in the past month.
- There continues to be housing issues. Some of the biggest issues are at Plantation. Management is requesting back rent then they back down. Brian and Kathleen will write a letter to the Stow Elderly Housing Corporation requesting attendance at their next meeting.

Outreach Report: presented by Kathleen Surdan.

- There have been 50% more office visits this month, forty-six different people.

- There are a range of needs:
 1. Durable Medical Equipment, commode liners, bed rails
 2. Podiatrists
 3. Deaths
 4. Technical assistance
 5. Acton Food Pantry
- The COA events are well attended.

Director's Report

- It is much busier now even though it's Stow only.
- There has been an up tick in the number of Covid cases; some have been hospitalized.
- Recently, a number of people have passed away.
- New people are coming in to tour and see what the COA offers.
- Conservation land walks, the first is Hallock Point others will follow monthly.
- The Recreation Department is setting up courts for pickle ball.
- Brian is starting a men's group; there's been a great response.
- People are offering to conduct classes in a number of different areas.
- Symphony interest
- Juneau is our therapy dog and greeter.
- During Springfest, the Friends of the COA will not have an official event. Rules at the church have changed so we won't have access to the kitchen for the fundraiser breakfast.
- During the department heads' meeting, the police and fire chiefs have complimented Brian and Kathleen on their work.
- Trying to make our newsletter have a community focus, and develop more fliers around town.
- Gigi is working to improve and streamline the COA.
- Statistics for March 2023:
 1. Total people served - 2676 duplicated
 2. Total people served - 399 unduplicated
 3. 72% Female 28% Male
 4. Average people signing in daily - 58
 5. Telephone calls - 821
 6. Most popular activities - food, exercise
 7. Interactions/Services provided by COA Staff - 294 duplicated
 8. Most Provided Service - transportation, general help, donations, fitness.

9. Transportation - 279 Riders - 49
10. Volunteers and Tax work-off - 269
The meeting adjourned at 11:00 A.M.
Respectfully submitted,
Ruth A. Delmonico, secretary