

## **COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held on June 9, 2022 via Zoom and at the Community Center**

**Members Present:** William Byron, Ruth Delmonico, Charlie Aaronson, Kathy O'Brien, Jeanne Genereux

**Associate member present:** Jessica Moriarty

**Absent:** Member: Susan Matatia, Associate members: Al Arthur, Kate Hogan, and June Thall

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

**Community Services Coordinator,** Brian O'Sullivan, was in attendance to present his report.

- The number of people needing assistance has fluctuated. Some are having difficulty paying bills and some facing eviction. We are trying to find ways to reduce cost of living.
- Stow taxi is being used more there have been about 25 riders. The grant has been extended through June.
- M.A.R.T. is assessing the needs of those in member towns. About 8 towns are taking advantage of after hour's rides. Most riders have medical appointments.
- There has been a change in management at Plantation and Pilot Grove. Michele Fuller left Plantation and was replaced by Jasmine. Shortly after, Jasmine gave her notice. Michele Fuller left her new job and did not want to return to Plantation, so she replaced Joe; and Joe took the position at Plantation.
- It's difficult to get maintenance people, and people often call the COA instead of the property managers.
- Rules are being broken at the apartments, and people are getting upset. Better communication with the Housing Board and the property managers is needed.
- The police now have a mental health expert to help with issues. We are sharing the mental health expert with Harvard.

**The Minutes of April 14th** were accepted as written.

#### **Other Liaison Reports:**

**Minuteman Senior Services-** Presented by Charlie Aaronson

- There has been a shift from Pandemic to endemic, health care and mental health. There are rising costs and a large turnover.
- They are making adjustments to the 2023 budget.

- Often there is an emphasis on the good things happening instead of focusing on the problems. This prevents a true picture of what's going on.
- Recently, we learned that there are different tiers to the meals brought to the mealsite. Stow is at the lowest tier. We would like to improve the quality.

**Community Preservation Committee-** Presented by Charlie Aaronson

- The Library and the Red Acre Road Project are supported this year.
- The Town Hall was pulled.
- The CPC is starting a new cycle and will be receiving applications.
- The committee usually meets twice a month.

**Chair's Report-**

- A number of senior citizens are leaving Stow because of high taxes. Should we invite Denise to come to a meeting and/or an Assessor to advocate for more programs for senior citizens?

**Director's Report -**

- We're slowly bringing back more programs.
- The staff has been affected by Covid resulting in staff shortages.
- New telephone system will be installed on June 28th.
- Voters approved two part time receptionists, and Dolores, the Human Resources Officer is involved in the hiring process. Each will work two and a half days so they know the entire day's schedule.
- The Friends of the COA are willing to fund the van shelter.
- The Executive Office of Elder Affairs sent information on a course on diversity which all staff and volunteers should take. Alyson would like us to do it together. June is Pride Month.
- Vans are fine, but new steps were welded on one of the vans.
- Bridges was cancelled as several students and teachers were absent with Covid.
- With the help of Jessica, the COA brochure is being updated.
- We're working on restructuring the COA.
- Statistics for May:
  - Total People Served - 316 unduplicated      1917 duplicated
  - 68% female      32% male
  - Telephone calls - 605
  - 39 riders
  - 305 rides

No other Business. The Meeting adjourned at 11:42 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Ruth Delmonico, Secretary

