

Dover Council on Aging Board Minutes
Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Present: B. Cocks, M. Dilg, P. DiSanto, B. Hagan, C. Holmes, A. Thompson
Staff: J. Claypoole
Guest: J. Kent-Uritam

Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made by B. Hagan and seconded by P. DiSanto to accept the December 6, 2022 Minutes. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Fiscal Year 2023 Expense Control Report ending December 31, 2022 was distributed. We do not have payroll figures for either November or December. Total operating expenses for December was \$2,948.86. A motion was made by B. Hagan and seconded by P. DiSanto to accept only the operating expenses for the November and December, 2022 Treasurer's Reports. All in favor. Discussion took place on the cost of meals provided by the COA to seniors. A December 30, 2022 accounting of the \$3,000.00 given by the Friends to the COA was distributed. The balance remaining from income from Lifetime Learning is \$350.00. This will be used for future ukulele classes. The Town Accountant is setting up a special gift fund for monies gifted from the Friends. J. Claypoole made a request to the Friends of the Council on Aging for an additional \$5,000.00.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

J. Claypoole reported the Town Administrator's last day is Friday, January 6. The town is in the process of hiring a recruitment firm. C. Valente is our interim Town Administrator. An interim Human Resource Director has been hired.

December Grab and Go meals provided 91 meals (28 meals were delivered); largest numbers since lockdown in pandemic. Inquiries for fuel assistance have increased. The COA newsletter delivery from the printer has been delayed until tomorrow. The Senior Tax Work Off program has 7 applicants. The following departments have requested workers: COA, Accounting, Assessor and DPW. The monthly lunch location has been transferred to the Dover Church for January, February and March due to the problems of ice and snow. The tea and coffee have moved to St. Dunstan's Church. Fitness Instructor A. DeSimone will have surgery and be out for two months. The COA is reaching out to other fitness instructors.

COA BUDGET FY2024 UPDATE

J. Claypoole attended the Warrant Committee meeting where Town budgets were presented. The Warrant Committee did not have any questions regarding the COA budget. C. Hudson is our liaison.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING UPDATE

J. Claypoole emailed all Board members the proposed Warrant Articles for FY 2023. Park and Rec has added a warrant article -- Appropriate for Community Center Recreation Items. This is in response to the 17 valued engineered items which are being reviewed but only three bid alternative items can be in the bid. Some of the items that might be pulled out of the bid are the exterior basketball/recreation court, folding partition in flex room, flooring for dance space and a play area. Park and Rec decided to include funds for these four items in the May Town Meeting Article. The amount is not to exceed \$200,000.00. B. Cocks stated we, as a committee, should support the Park and Rec warrant article as the COA will receive benefit from it. As more information is received, a vote on this can be taken at a later Board meeting.

TRAVEL REPORT

J. Claypoole reported the COA is planning a bowling trip in January and a lunch trip in February. The musical, "Come from Away" is sold out. She is meeting with Westwood COA to look at day trips. P. DiSanto mentioned that Sherborn is now using Dial A Ride for transportation. The COA is looking at a new tour company to use as Fox Tours is no longer in business.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

B. Cocks stated his focus has been on the Caryl Community Center and Park and Rec's warrant article. He believes we, as a board, should not do a warrant article but instead support Park and Rec's warrant article.

FRIENDS OF COA REPORT

M. Dilg reported there is a noticeable difference in membership from last year as the Friends are not receiving as many. Also, people are giving less. She believes this is to do with the possible recession as well as inflation. A. Thompson suggested doing a "Meet and Greet" like the Neighborhood Fund. Discussion took place on expanding this idea for the COA.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

B. Hagan mentioned she belongs to the Green Energy Consumers Alliance. It costs seniors \$10.00 to join and will save you \$.40 a gallon on fuel oil. Devaney Oil is part of this consortium. She also stated you can receive assistance from the state fuel program if your income was under \$42,000.00 per person or \$55,000.00 for a couple.

A. Thompson mentioned she had heard from the Dover Mother's Association and they might help with volunteer drivers for seniors. They are interested in talking about this but they have many questions. This is a resource and needs an ongoing conversation.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

J. Kent-Uritam said she had three points. Number 1 – she is available as a volunteer to deliver meals for seniors. Number 2 - \$5.00 for a meal is reasonable. Number 3 – Seniors are looking for fun and trips are fun. The town is planning on having a Special Town Meeting around the September timeframe regarding Hale Reservation. Hale Reservation is asking the town of Dover for \$10,000,000.00 for a conservation restriction. The Trustees of the Reservation will be the enforcement agent for the town of Dover for the conservation restriction. If you have any input or questions, she would like to give them to the Open Space Committee.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by B. Hagan and seconded by P. DiSanto to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Dilg, Secretary