

Dover Council on Aging Board Minutes Tuesday, February 9, 2021

Present: B. Cocks, J. Connolly, M. Dilg, B. Hagan, C. Johnston, P. DiSanto, R. Townsend, G. Wise
Staff: J. Claypoole
Guests: J. Kent-Uritam

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

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A motion was made by B. Cocks and seconded by J. Connolly to approve the January 12, 2021 Minutes. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT -- The Fiscal Year 2021 Expense Control Report was distributed. The Fiscal Year February 8, 2021 report's current month operating expenses are \$3,548.73 and total year-to-date operating expenses are \$14,456.16. A motion to accept the February 8, 2021 Treasurer's Report was made by J. Connolly and seconded by B. Cocks. All in favor.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

COVID-19 Vaccines - Since the end of January and opening of vaccines to ages 75 and older, COA has been receiving numerous emails and telephone calls from seniors on how to obtain their vaccine shots and requests for help with the process. Following are the steps taken:

- Trained staff on navigation of the state's website vaccine registration system.
- Recruited 5 to 6 people who assisted their parents with the state's vaccination website and have offered to help our seniors.
- In the past week, scheduled 41 people to receive vaccines at different sites.
- Worked with Needham Public Health to schedule 18 people who were ages 92 to 97 to receive their vaccine shot at the Needham Clinic this past weekend.
- Worked with seniors to provide free transportation.
- Staff has been up at midnight and 5:00 a.m. to help schedule seniors for their vaccine shots and assisting them through the process. All seniors who have called have had appointments scheduled by COA.
- Worked with the Board of Health to craft messaging for the town's website with questions and answers including the state's new 211 call center.
- Used the town census to call seniors not in My Senior Center to see if need assistance.

J. Claypoole has spoken to Rep. Denise Garlick regarding finding vaccine appointments. Rep. Garlick connected Needham Public Health to COA to include Dover and Medfield seniors, especially those without technology access. There is a need for vaccines for homebound and the Town and Board of Health are reviewing options; in the past, public health nurses went to homes to dispense vaccines (flu) and other methods due to cold storage needed of vaccine and observation time are being discussed. State is developing a plan and COA is awaiting more info.

J. Claypoole updated COA voicemail message to request seniors to leave a message regarding the vaccine and the COA will get back to them as soon as possible. A cancellation call list was created for this weekend's clinics and shared with Needham Public Health and some Dover seniors were called and received vaccines.

J. Claypoole reported that Grab and Go Valentine's meal will take place tomorrow because of the snow coming today. The meal is being prepared by Roche Bros with 83 people signed up and funded from a grant from Beth Israel Needham. Lifetime Learning Ukulele is starting tomorrow. Hudson River School Landscape Painters class with Deb Stein is starting on Thursday and 28 people have signed up. Other virtual fitness programs this month are mat and chair yoga, meditation/stretch, as well as strength, stretch and Saturday Zumba Gold classes with A. DeSimone. The Tuesday Strength and Stability class will begin in March.

P. DiSanto stated J. Claypoole, COA staff and the Town are doing a great job.

J. Uritam asked how many of us who are over the age of 60 do you have email addresses for? J. Claypoole replied we have 600 to 700 emails but not all are from the town of Dover.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING UPDATE – R. Townsend provided an update on the Community Center Building project. There is a public forum on Zoom tomorrow night. She encouraged all to participate. At this forum, we will choose two options out of four – one new build and one renovate. These two options will go to a special town meeting. Tomorrow evening, the Community Center Building Committee will discuss their thoughts and checking processes and will compare one option to another.

Discussed were the following topics:

- ☐ M. Dilg asked where the 70 sq. ft. of medical storage space will be located. R. Townsend replied this space will be part of the schematic design. The Committee is considering Whiting Road as a possible place for storage. She outlined possible storage areas. B. Hagan stated in the past when Whiting Road was used for storage it was a problem because of the condition of the building.
- ☐ B. Cocks asked if the renovate option would be a hybrid. R. Townsend responded that a 18,000 sq. ft building is not financially feasible so they are looking at a 15,000. sq. ft. building. Because of the decrease in size, the renovate option will be a hybrid.
- ☐ J. Claypoole mentioned the kitchen design was for a warming kitchen. She has advocated for a larger kitchen as then the COA may apply for Federal and state grants as a congregate meal site.
- ☐ J. Connolly expressed concern regarding the two choices to be made at tomorrow evening's forum. People will look at plans for the first time, try to understand them and then make a decision without the ability to sit in a meeting to discuss the plans. B. Cocks stated this is a utilization plan and not a site design plan. The committee is trying to maximize sq. footage so that in the build new and renovate options we can utilize the space to achieve what we want to achieve.
- ☐ J. Uritam asked who is in charge of booking areas of the Caryl Community Center? R. Townsend replied that the Caryl Management Advisory Committee is looking at other

centers in the area to find what is best in managing the space. Park and Rec and COA will work together with the program scheduling to make sure their areas are prioritized.

- ☐ J. Claypoole stated her concern that the data for program sizes being used is from 2018. COA programs have grown in the last two years. Is there room for us to grow? We do not want to be limited in the next few years by either lack of room or storage. R. Townsend stated we are trying to make this space as flexible as possible for ages 2 to 92.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – None

FRIENDS OF COA REPORT – G. Wise reported the Friends membership drive was very successful. We have received \$11,00.00 in membership dues. Friends are talking about having a BBQ at the end of the summer.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CITIZEN COMMENTS – None

ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn was made by B. Cocks at 10:30 a.m. and seconded by J. Connolly. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Dilg, Secretary