

Dover Council on Aging Board Minutes Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Present: B. Cocks, J. Connolly, M. Dilg, P. DiSanto, B. Hagan, C. Johnston, G. Wise

Staff: J. Claypoole

Guest: B. Pettit, L. Pettit, J. Kent-Uritam

Meeting called to order at 9:35 a.m. via Zoom.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – A motion was made by B. Cocks and seconded by J. Connolly to approve the April 6, 2021 Minutes. All in favor.

TREASURER’S REPORT – The Fiscal Year April 29, 2021 Expense Control Report’s total monthly expenses are \$15,242.96 and the operating expenses are \$3,131.41. Expenses of \$2,400.00 were submitted last week but do not appear in this report. A motion to accept the April 29, 2021 Treasurer’s Report was made by J. Connolly and seconded by B. Cock. All in favor.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Annemarie Thompson, COA Program Coordinator, has resigned. Her last day is May 14. The COA is sorry to see her go and thanks her for all her work. During National Volunteer week in April, the COA placed a banner on the Town Common thanking COA volunteers. Y. Luttazi assisted with the design of this banner. There were over 200 volunteers who assisted the seniors this past year. Thank You bags were handed out to volunteers at a drive through event on April 28 behind Caryl Center. Honor Society High School students painted posters and assisted with the event. N. Vaida, A. Thompson and volunteers from the Fire Department delivered Thank You bags to volunteers who could not attend.

In-person programs – J. Claypoole met with Westwood COA Director and the staff at Powisset Farm to discuss cooking classes as well as fresh vegetables. The wholesale vegetable farm stand option will start in June and run through October or November partially funded by a BID-Needham grant. In person cooking classes will be starting in July and will run through September. Art in Bloom at the MFA was very successful this month and was funded by the Friends of COA. Fifteen people attended. Dover will partner with Westwood COA and travel with Fox Tours to a Lake Winnepesaukee cruise in August, Martha’s Vineyard in September and the Turkey Train in New Hampshire in October. Vaccine cards are required to attend these tours. There will be two Grab and Go meals in May and one in June. COA will convert to Grab and Stay meals and eat outside after that. The Virtual Coffee and Chat has been switched to Thursday mornings twice a month with plans to do them outside in June. Rep. Denise Garlick will hold a virtual coffee for seniors on May 18th. May 17th is election day; the COA will open up Room 108 so people can stop by after voting and pick up books and puzzles. The Meditation and Stretch class will move to twice a month at 7:45 a.m. and is funded by the Friends of the COA. Attendance increased when changed to mornings.

Re-Opening Plan – J. Claypoole reported that COA is awaiting details from the Town based on State guidelines to set protocols. This item is on agenda at this week’s Selectmen’s meeting.

BOH had positive feedback from the Dept of Public Health on decrease in COVID infections and increase in vaccinations.

COMMUNITY CENTER BUILDING UPDATE

Review of Articles for June 12 Special Town Meeting – C. Johnston reported the Community Center Building Committee voted 5 to 2 to increase Special Town Meeting Article 3 from \$13M to \$18M for both proposals. L. Pettit outlined the following Articles: Article 3 will ask for \$18M. If that article is voted down, an amendment will be put forth to go ahead with the next phase and ask for funding at a later Town Meeting. Article 3 requires a 2/3 vote. Article 4 – Park and Rec is asking to increase the Recreation Room by 1,000 sq. ft. at a cost of \$1.4M - \$1.6M. Article 5 -- Citizens Petition is asking for 3,800 sq. ft. for a designated preschool program plus 5,000 sq. ft. for an adjacent outdoor play area at a total cost of \$3.6M. M. Dilg mentioned that if Article 3 fails, then the town will need between \$6-\$7M for renovation of the current building. J. Claypoole reported that Article 5 submitted by Park and Rec for additional space should be large enough for two pickleball courts and space may also be used by COA for other events. The Community Room holds 80 people, but COA could use Recreation Room for a larger event. Discussion held on the additional amount of money and space requested in Articles 3, 4 and 5.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – C. Johnston wrote a thank you letter to A. Thompson which she read to the Board in which she thanked her for all her work for the COA. She also thanked the Friends for sponsoring Art in Bloom and all the volunteers, including Y. Luttazi for working on the banner. L. Pettit will also send a thank you letter to A. Thompson from the Friends.

FRIENDS OF COA REPORT – G. Wise reported there is a Friends meeting next week. In May, Deb Stein will present a Lifetime Learning Class on Modern Impressionism.

BOARD MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS – None

CITIZEN COMMENTS – L. Pettit stated the debt for Chickering School will be retired in a few years which will make Town's debt burden less when considering the \$18M for the Caryl Community Center. She suggested that someone from the COA Board could speak at the Special Town Meeting about the building and the thoughts about the space for the COA. B. Cocks asked if there is a consensus as a Board. The Board needs to be consolidated in its thinking before making a presentation at Town Meeting. The Board took a straw vote on the proposed renovated or new plan, the cost of \$18M and the expansion of the Park and Rec space. J. Connolly, B. Cocks, P. DiSanto, B. Hagan and G. Wise agreed in the affirmative on the renovation plan, 18M and expansion of Park and Rec space. M. Dilg agreed only on the renovation plan and \$18M. C. Johnston abstained. B. Cocks agreed to speak for the Council on Aging at the Special Town Meeting. He needs a committed stance from the Board. Discussion took place on Articles 4 and 5 as well as space needed for future expansion of the Caryl Community Center. The Board meets on June 1 to vote on stance at the Special Town Meeting.

ADJOURN -- A motion to adjourn was made at 10: 35 a.m. by B. Cocks and seconded by J. Connolly. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Dilg, Secretary