

COUNCIL ON AGING REMOTE BOARD MEETING - April 7, 2021

David Ketchum called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m.

Chris Hottle read the opening statement per MA remote meeting law and will serve as Moderator.

Members present via roll call: David Ketchum, Penny Sutter, Deb Meadows, Chris Asselin and Kathryn Menangas.

Staff present: Chris Hottle

Public comments: None

Motion made by Chris Asselin to approve the March 3, 2021 minutes as presented. Seconded by Penny Sutter. **Motion** carried 4 – 0.

Director's Report:

- The calls are slowing down but COA staff continues to assist clients with scheduling vaccines.
- The first Town department heads meeting was held with Alex Morse, the new TM. A one-on-one meeting will be occurring shortly.
- Carla Mancino, Program Assistant, will be leaving the COA staff next week. She has served the COA for ten years. The Board thanks Carla for her caring contributions. The position has been posted and duties will be phased back in as the COVID restrictions change.
- The staff is already looking for outside sites to begin re-envisioned programs.
- The AARP volunteers (2) assisted 40 senior clients with their 2020 taxes.
- April is National Volunteer month and volunteers will be recognized in May in small groups, outdoors.
- Fund raiser at Stop n' Shop "Bloomin' for Good" raised \$121 for the COA Food Pantry.
- The Wednesday lunch is continuing, with about 2/3 of the lunches being delivered.

Old Business:

- VMCC building updates: The 6-7 leaks in the roof still remain.
- The walk-in freezer and refrigerator will have replacement mechanisms installed with money from an approved grant.
- The COA will continue to honor the mask wearing, hand sanitizing and social distancing practices.

New Business:

- The Town Assessor's Office, with COA input, will present an ATM Warrant Article at the May 1st Town Meeting.

Motion made by Deb Meadows and seconded by Penny Sutter to support the following warrant article:

SENIOR PROPERTY WORK-OFF TAX PROGRAM

ARTICLE 28. SENIOR TAX CREDIT PROGRAM. To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's acceptance of the provisions of General Laws Chapter 59 & 5K Property Tax Liability Reduced in Exchange for Volunteer Service; Persons over age 60 by the addition of the following: "allowing an approved representative, for persons physically unable, to provide such services to the city or town"; or to take any other action relative thereto. (Requested by the Select Board and the Town Manager)

(Explanation of Article 28: This article seeks to expand the Town's adoption of MGL Ch59 section 5K a/k/a the Senior Tax Credit Program "to allow any approved representative for persons physically unable, to provide such services to the Town.")

The motion passed 4 - 0.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. **Motion** made by David Ketchum to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Chris Asselin. Motion carried 4 - 0.

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Deb Meadows
Clerk