

COUNCIL ON AGING HYBRID BOARD MEETING - September 1, 2021

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

Chris Hottle read the opening statement per MA remote meeting law and will serve as Moderator. This recording is slightly different than previous remote meetings, as there are in person and remote Board members attending.

Members present via roll call: David Ketchum (in person), Penny Sutter (in person), Deb Meadows (remote), Barb Yates (remote) and Kathy Menangas (in person).
Staff present: Chris Hottle (in person).

2. Public comments: None

3. MOTION made by Penny Sutter to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Barb Yates. **MOTION** carried 4 – 0.

4. Director's Report:

- At the last BOS meeting, a letter was read about a COA member complaining that the regular bridge games have not begun again since the COVID restrictions. Chris Hottle is sending a written response, explaining the Town and COA reopening procedures and the phasing in of the on site activities, beginning with small group activities. The bridge gatherings can number up to 16-20 and are considered a large group gathering. The six-foot distancing would not be possible and will be phased in at a later date. Provincetown COA is the first COA on the Outer Cape to begin in person events starting the week of September 6th.
- Personnel changes are occurring with the COA staff. Rick Shaw, Program Coordinator, is retiring in October. Carla Mancino retired last month. Nancy Dooley will be on a planned medical leave from Mid-September to early December. The Program Coordinator is a 30-hour position with benefits. The cook position must be filled with a state certified individual. Rick Shaw will fill in that spot until the end of September. Without a qualified person, the lunches cannot be prepared and the program may be temporarily suspended.
- Passive yoga will begin shortly, with Kate Wallace Rogers as the instructor.
- A fitness instructor is still needed for the other physical activities.
- The COVID 19 testing will continue in the COA parking lot through September 6, 2021.
- Because of the COVID testing site, the school has allowed the COA Mobile Pantry to use their driveway. Four employees and four volunteers are staffing the operation. The pantry served 41 seniors and families last week. They haven't missed a month since the program began.
- The garden is still growing and the herbs and vegetables are being used for the Wednesday lunches. One volunteer is maintaining all of the plants.

- September is Senior Center Month. The COA will sponsor an event outdoors on September 15th at Motta Field. Please call to RSVP.
- Two COA members have generously donated a stand up freezer and refrigerator to the kitchen. This also aids the VMCC building in fulfilling its role as the Town shelter for emergencies. Thank you so much.

5. Old Business:

- The COA 50th anniversary is in 2022. Planning has begun to involve the whole town, town officials, and provide food and music. The COA wishes to emphasize the “Shifting Cultural Perceptions of Aging”.
- VMCC building updates: A new leak in the Human Services area has been fixed. Several moldy ceiling tiles have been replaced. A new leak has occurred in the Lounge area. The 6-7 original leaks still remain. The new walk-in freezer needs to be repaired, and a part is on order.

6. New Business

- The COA Board is looking for a new Board member and one alternate. Please refer any interested parties to the Town.

7. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. It will be a hybrid style meeting, allowing for in person and remote attendance.

8. **MOTION** made by Deb Meadows to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Penny Sutter. The **MOTION** carried 4 – 0. The meeting adjourned at 2:26 p.m.

Respectively submitted,
Debbie Meadows
Clerk