

Dover Council on Aging Board Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Present: B. Cocks, J. Connolly, M. Dilg, B. Hagan, C. Johnston

Staff: J. Claypoole

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

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by B. Cocks and seconded by B. Hagan to approve the January 7, 2020 Minutes. All in favor.

Treasurer's Report

The January 29, 2020 Treasurer's Report was distributed. The Treasurer's Report balance is \$28,053.42 and total expenses are \$2,832.33. A motion to accept the January 29, 2020 Treasurer's Report was made by B. Cocks and seconded by J. Connolly. All in favor.

Director's Report – J. Claypoole reported on the following:

- She met with Town Council last December to discuss a waiver form for COA fitness classes as well as other COA classes which will indemnify the town of Dover. A waiver form was developed using the Town of Westwood's template. The new waiver form was distributed to the Board and will be implemented this month. This form includes emergency contact information.
- The SHINE Councilor, Renee Rubin, has resigned. A new counselor has been assigned to the COA.
- The Town Administrator, C. Dwelley, sent an email to staff/committee members bringing to their attention an email scam. J. Claypoole distributed this email to Board members.
- There will be an Open Meeting Law Training session on February 10 from 6:30 p.m. to approximately 8:30 p.m. in the Great Hall. The notice from the Town Administrator will be emailed to all Board members by J. Claypoole.
- At the last Board of Selectmen's meeting, a request for accepting and expending was approved by the Selectmen for \$500.00 from Rehab Associates to fund a lunch.
- The back steps at the Caryl Community Center have been re-done.
- The Norfolk District Attorney's office sponsored a seminar, "Are You Prepared?" which was held on January 13 with emergency back pack kits distributed and Mass. Emergency Preparedness Coordinator was the speaker. We will invite the Police Chief to speak at a coffee in March. In April, we will invite a Selectman to speak about the articles on the Town Warrant.
- Our Yoga class will be modified. We will be combining yoga with meditation. We will also offer chair yoga as this has been requested. The last two Zumba classes had no attendees. Discussion took place on changing the time of this class. It was decided to use the My Senior Center software to send a broadcast email to attendees if classes

cannot be held. J. Connolly suggested sending a survey to exercise class attendees to ask them what is the best time to hold the class.

Old Business

- COA Budgets FY 2021 – J. Claypoole reported the FY 2021 Budget was presented to the Warrant Committee on January 15 by C. Dwelley. R. Andrews, our liaison, was in attendance. J. Claypoole presented the COA budget. She explained how our budget had shifted and the reasoning behind the programs we currently offer. Both the Police Department and Highway Department were present. She was able to explain how closely we work with both departments to serve the needs of our elders who might not have anywhere to turn for assistance. The COA partners with both the Police Department and the Highway Department.
- Caryl Community Center: COA Space Improvements – J. Connolly reported that a contract has been signed with Office Gallery. All COA employees/volunteers were consulted at all times and frequently. A lot of time and effort was put into designing their workspace to meet their goals. In the outside corridor, we will ask the Friends of the COA if we can move their Plaques to further down the wall toward the doorway. In the area where the plaques are currently located, we will have iconic pictures of Dover. Artists will provide artwork that we will place on the back wall in Room 116 as well as the small room off of Room 116. We will also place some artwork in the area that is currently our library. We will write about these photographers and artists in our newsletter. We have received many complements on our new rug in Room 116.
- Senior Tax Relief – J. Claypoole reported she and the Town Assessor, A. Gow, presented the Senior Tax Relief Programs as well as other tax changes that can be made to the Selectmen. A small change was made under Assets by adding, “EXCLUDES PRIMARY RESIDENCE”.
 1. Additional tax relief program to consider are: Property Tax Deferral for Seniors – Clause 41A – reducing the interest rate of 8%. B. Cocks indicated the Assessors have agreed to reduce the 8% interest rate to 4% and this request will be on the Town Warrant.
 2. Property Tax Exemption for Person Over 65 – Clause 41C -- Increasing the exemption amount from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00. R. Cocks indicated the Assessors have agreed to increase the exemption amount of \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 and this request will be on the Town Warrant.
 3. Voluntary “Check the Box’ Donations – A place on municipal or excise tax bills where taxpayers can voluntarily check off and donate an amount to defray real estate taxes on elderly and disabled persons on low income and this request will be on the Town Warrant.
 4. Means Tested Senior Citizen Property Exemption – Reduces property taxes for certain low to moderate income seniors through a redistribution of the property tax burden within residential class.

The first 3 items will be on the Town Warrant. All COA Board members agreed they supported the first three additional tax relief programs.

- Five residents stopped in to talk to the Town Assessor, Any Gow, at her Office Hours with Town Assessor.
- The Mass. Council on Aging is planning on amending some of the language in Clause 41A and Clause 41C.
- J. Claypoole spoke to Rep. Denise Garlick at her Report to the Community regarding senior tax relief. Rep. Garlick suggested she talk to her office regarding a speaker to discuss the Circuit Breaker Credit.

New Business - None

Ongoing Business

- Chairperson's Report – C. Johnston reported the Selectmen have appointed members to a Caryl Community Center Building Committee comprised of: Ford Spaulding, David Billings, Barry Goldman, Samuel Cole, Ruth Townsend, Luciana Burdi and Terry Sobolewski. The process is to engage an Owners Project Manager, a Design Team (Architect) and a Feasibility Study. This will lead to schematic designs and pricing. A Stakeholder Committee will also be formed to help communicate, inform, listen and engage our citizens.
- BayPath Elder Services Report – There was no report.
- Travel Committee Report – C. Johnston reported that we have added additional trips. In February we will be going to Providence to see Fiddle on the Roof. In March we will visit the Concord Museum and visit Louisa May Alcott's house. In April we will attend the Boston Symphony Orchestra. The movie, Downtown Abbey, will be held at the Dover Church on February 14.
- Friends of COA – J. Claypoole reported there will be five Spring Lifetime Learning classes: Ukulele, Tony Morrison, Social Justice and Hearing. **Janet – I'm missing a class. Was Maud to do another class?**
- Board Member Items – There were no Board member items.

Citizen Comments – There were no citizen comments.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:10 a.m. by B. Cocks and seconded by J. Connolly. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Dilg
Secretary