Council of Aging Board Meeting

March 16, 2021

Minutes

Members present: Jo Schofield, Chairman; Susan Lawless, Director; Marge Smith, Secretary; Michael Rugnetta; Judy Rakutis; Dottie Martel, Generations; Sarah Sloat and Ashley DiSesa, guests.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:35 by the Chairman Jo Schofield.

Secretary’s Report: The report of the Feb. 16 meeting was accepted. Motion: Marge Smith. Seconded: Michael Rugnetta. Voted on and passed.

There was no correspondence.

Board Reports: Generations will list updated membership and donations in the next Newsletter.

Director’s Report: The COA will be moving to the Police Station on March 29 while the roof repairs will be done. Jo suggested a Bulletin Board sign be posted outside to inform the public. Susan stated signage will be posted on the door. Most COA business due to COVID is done thru the phone. No activities will be hosted at the Police Station. Susan reviewed the Budget. Susan inquired about the tables in the Dining Area. Given the COVID restrictions would a new configuration of tables be possible. New tables were ordered by Generations but they were inadequate. It has been determined that the back room can no longer be used because of inadequate access. Once the roof is done scheduling activities will thus have to be adjusted. Susan is attending weekly Building Needs Committee meetings. She is looking at the Police Station layout to determine space allocations should the COA eventually use the building. Susan was able to obtain thru the Formula Grant money to repave the handicapped area in April. A new volunteer has offered his service as a van driver. He is in the process of filing the paperwork and trying to schedule DOT required training. Susan is submitting a request for van replacement as part of Capital Planning. She also commented that the tent may no go up if the roof replacement can be finished in two weeks. The St. Patrick’s Grab and Go dinners provided by Grill 58 will be offered free to 75 people who have already signed up. Pick up times are staggered. Susan reported that the very successful Vaccination Clinics at the Fire Department have been completed. Homebound vaccinations will be offered in the future. Senior housing has not secured vaccines or coordinated with the Fire Department. The OCES Meeting in February centered on complaints of the State Website and that there are not enough vaccines. OCES can provide transportation to sites if needed. There is a March 23rd meeting on Hoarding limited to 100 people. Susan requested that Dottie attend the OCES April meeting. Due to Martha Smith’s passing it was unanimously recommended that Sarah Sloat’s name be submitted to the Board of Selectmen for approval for appointment to the COA Board. Marge will submit a letter to the Selectmen.

Food Pantry Update: Sarah reported that the Food Pantry is now offering fresh fruit, gluten free items, Depends, cat and dog food. Financial donations have been great. The food pantry is supplying food to a Sober Retreat Home. Easter dinners will be provided for 20 people. The hours are still 2:30-4:00 on Tuesdays.

Dottie asked if the Generations Board could meet under the tent. Given there are only 5 members Susan said of course.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 20th

The meeting was adjourned at 10:11.

Respectfully submitted,

 Marge Smith