



Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, August 27, 2020

A meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 at 10:00 AM via Zoom with the following members present: Richard McCarthy, Josette Burke, Linda Winslow, Jim Pelligrene, Mary Jones, and Janet Fasanello. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin, COA Outreach Worker Laurel St. Pierre, and COA Program Coordinator Sheri Cohen.

10:04 AM : Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke on behalf of Richard McCarthy who was unable to be heard over Zoom call in.

COA Director Kerri McManama presented an update on the status of in-person programs at the Center. The presentation covered:

- Review of Phase 1 Requirements for participation.
- Programs that were offered in August which included exercise programs on the patio and a drive thru ice cream social in the parking lot. Maximum attendance in the patio exercise programs has not been reached, but the numbers have increased. 50 registered for the Ice Cream Social.
- In response to what we heard members were missing, Patio Social Hour has been added to the schedule. There have been no subscribers yet.
- New programs in September include a "Grab & Go" weekly lunch, Move Pain Free, and Meditation. In October, a TRIAD yellow dot program drive thru has been scheduled.

Discussion followed the presentation:

- Josette Burke asked when programming would be transitioning from the outdoors into the building. COA reported that a Phase 2 Plan has been developed and approved by the BOH, but the time frame is TBD. The Murphy Room which is most equipped for social

distancing is currently being utilized for Food Pantry storage. Plans are in the works to transition Food Pantry storage elsewhere. It was also added that attendance at the in-person programs is showing that a majority of members aren't ready to be in-person. Virtual Programs will continue and there are plans to expand.

- Janet Fasanello asked about how the Food Pantry has been working. COA explained that the ongoing collaboration between the Food Pantry, Walpole Public Schools Food Services, and the COA has been tremendous. COA staff continues to coordinate volunteers, orders, and deliveries. Staff and COA vans are also utilized for deliveries.
- Richard McCarthy texted in his thanks on behalf of the BOD to the COA Team for doing a great job.
- Janet Fasanello asked about open usage of the back patio. COA reiterated the Social Hour on the patio is now formally being offered. It is public space, so the public is able to use the space. COA will be adding signage asking the public not to move the furniture since it is spaced for safe social distancing.
- Linda Winslow commented that the Virtual Book Club has been wonderful. COA reported that the Book Club will continue and is held the last Tuesday of the month at 4:00 PM via Zoom.
- Laurel St. Pierre offered that Outreach will be focused on facilitating Open Enrollment which is starting in October. Farmer's Market Coupons have been available, but not many have been given out since many seniors who may be eligible aren't able to get to the markets to use them.

A decision was made to hold the next Board meeting via Zoom on Thursday September 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM with a more traditional agenda.

Josette Burke adjourned the meeting at 10:37 AM.