

The Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024

Present at meeting – Carole Mullen, department director, Cheryl Moreci, chair, Bob Casali, vice chair, Dan Malloy, secretary, Charles Duczakowski, Dave Guglielmi, Julia Manning, Eileen Milaszewski, Arlene Williams. Absent – Karen Kuligowski.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

November minutes – The minutes were accepted unanimously.

Service statistics – Again this month, most units on the list were for heating assistance. None of those were “one and done.” Department director Carole Mullen mentioned that they have dealt with several emergencies because it takes so long to get heating assistance approved. In one case, she was able to get 100 gallons of oil provided by St. Vincent de Paul to one home to keep the heat on while waiting for approval. An internal situation at SMOC has contributed to the difficulty of moving the process forward.

Tax credit program – There has been some questioning of why the program doesn’t pay at the state minimum rate. It does pay above the federal minimum. To pay state minimum (\$15/hour) either the town would have to provide more money, or the hours reduced to about 64. There will be more discussion of how to handle this matter in the future. There are 23 people in the program at the present time.

Budget – Carole and Cheryl met with town administrator Mitch Ruscitti and presented our proposal for a five-percent increase over last years budget. Unfortunately, all departments are being held to a three-percent increase.

Holiday party – The holiday party at the Community House was a big success. For many, holding it at a restaurant would be cost-prohibitive. Oliva’s has been very good to work with for such occasions.

February calendar –Tax clinics at the senior center will be provided by AARP on Thursdays in February, and they’ll go to the end of March. A seminar will be given by the Registry of Deeds on probate issues, wills and trusts. There will be a “bucket list” workshop. There will be three lunches, including a Valentine’s Day party, our regular senior lunch, and a lunch and learn program (probate, etc.) on the 22nd. Also, dance class will be back in February.

Class payment policy – People registering for classes will not be considered actually “signed up” until they have paid for the class.

Intergenerational programming – A group of high school students run a program called The Daily Grind. It’s a coffee cart, and they will be operating it at the senior center several times in

the next month or two. Also, Carole has met with the assistant principal at Memorial School and discussed having seniors assist in working with students. At this time, there are two (one of them on the tax credit program) assisting at Memorial School. Carole feels that there are many more who could volunteer in that capacity.

Strategizing- Carole suggested that at the board's strategizing sessions, job descriptions should be looked at. She feels that changes should be made in the staff assistant position. In the future, there may be changes in the operation of the outreach position also.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Danel Malloy, secretary