

The Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
October 28, 2021

Present –Carole Mullen, director, Cheryl Moreci, chair, Dan Malloy, secretary, Charles Duczakowski, Dave Guglielmi, Julia Manning, Eileen Milaszewski, Arlene Williams

New member- Our new board member, Charlie Duczakowski, was welcomed to the board.

Minutes – Approved

Monthly bills – Most notable among the bills were those from Travelers Transit, which are for out-of-town medical appointments. The amount in our budget for that is \$2500, but the use of that service is unpredictable. About \$2000 has already been used during this fiscal year.

Transportation - MWRTA will be providing us with a newer van to replace the one we have now. Since Mike Rutkowski, our van driver, is available to drive only one day a week, the director has been looking for an additional driver. It's been very difficult to find anyone to take the job for the \$15 per hour that we can pay. David Williams has expressed interest in it and is under consideration. Eileen moved to have the director contact David and to have him trained for the job. The motion passed unanimously.

Veterans' Day program – About 100 signs, paid for by the Community House, will be set up on the Community Lawn to honor Hopedale veterans. The signs will have the American flag, the person's name, and their branch of service. There will also be a program at the Community House to honor the vets.

CoA Fiftieth Anniversary celebration – It is hoped that an observance of the occasion will both celebrate it, and raise awareness of the department. The possibility of mailings and putting up signs was discussed. Julia had looked into the cost of signs, and had gotten prices of \$700 and \$900 for 40 of them. Carole said that a town-wide mailing would cost about \$3500 plus the cost of printing. Cheryl mentioned having a page or two included when a water bill is mailed out. The director pointed out that any money spent on any of these things would have to come from the Friends.

Social media – The possible use of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to publicize the department and our events was discussed. Julia volunteered to set up a Twitter account.

Town administrator – Town administrator Diana Schindler stopped in during our meeting. She was introduced to board members, and joined the discussion of Facebook, etc.

Tax credit program – At this time, there are about ten people in the program. There has been very little response from town departments with available jobs.

Grandfriends – The Grandfriends program at Bright Beginnings has been very successful. There are about seven volunteers in it.

Holiday party – The party this year will be in the Community House due to lack of transportation to an out-of-town restaurant. The meal will be from Oliva's.

Services – The number of services provided by the department this year has increased significantly compared to previous years. Categories with the largest increases include socialization, transportation, SMOC, caregiver support, housing, and safety in the home.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:10.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Malloy, secretary