

Council on Aging

Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2020

Present – (Town Hall) Carole Mullen, director, Cheryl Moreci, chair, Dan Malloy, secretary, Dave Guglielmi - (Zoom) Bob Casali, Karen Kuligowski, Julia Manning, Eileen Milaszewski, Arlene Williams.

Monthly bills – Operational costs have been very low. The “grab ‘n’ go meals” were provided for free, which was possible because of a \$1500 United Way grant. There is enough money from the grant to go through the winter months with the meals. \$500 from the grant has been put toward outreach, because the state budget hasn’t been finalized and what will be provided by the formula grant, which pays more than half of the outreach salary, is still unknown.

Transportation – The errand van is being used consistently by a very small number of people. Our new driver, Mike Rutkowski, has been doing an excellent job. Grocery shopping, miscellaneous other local trips, and occasionally local medical trips, are done by our van. Travelers Transit can be used for out of the immediate area medical trips, but they are only available in the middle of the day when their vans aren’t being used for school trips. Our medical transportation arrangement with Milford is only for trips in Milford and Hopedale.

Veterans Day – There was a great deal of positive feedback on the signs for veterans on the Community House lawn.

Outreach report – Last month 111 units of service were provided to 41 people. Many of the situations dealt with required multiple interactions with the director and Nancy. They often required a visit to the person, bringing papers back to the Senior Center, and sometimes a second visit to complete the work. Much of this involved fuel assistance and/or food assistance. Also, tax abatements and transportation questions were among other items that were dealt with.

Meals - The grab ‘n’ go meals have been very successful. Desirable, substantial meals are picked from the Meals on Wheels calendar. For December it will be lasagna. There will also be a hot chocolate and cookie grab ‘n’ go on December 21.

Budget – We have been fortunate in that the budget has only been reduced by between two and three thousand dollars, and that hasn’t impacted staff. Cheryl pointed out that the director had put in a tremendous amount of time preparing the budget. Several budget scenarios had been done to be prepared for whatever the situation required.

Vacation – The director will take ten days of vacation in January.

CoA anniversary – March will be the 50th anniversary of the Council on Aging. We’ll probably wait until September for a town-wide celebration of the event.

Technology issues – Some of the older residents are being left behind because of their lack of familiarity with present-day technology. The director suggested that at a future meeting we should discuss potential solutions to this problem.

January meeting – The next meeting of the CoA will be held on January 28.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Malloy, secretary

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1;49.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Malloy, Secretary