

Hopedale Council on Aging

Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2019

Present: Carole Mullen, Director, Cheryl Moreci, Bob Casali, Claudette Hughes, Pat Johnson, Nancilee Fuller, Rebecca Wild- Wesley, Diane Frazier, Eileen Milaszewski

Absent: Dan Malloy

Minutes and Bills: No meeting minutes for February 2019 meeting. Meeting was a group Ethics Training recertification. Bills approved and accepted.

Bills approved: February 2019

SMOC South Middlesex Opportunity Council Fuel assistance program's approval process has been especially slow and problematic this season. Understaffing seems to be a contributing factor to delays in clients receiving payments.

Transportation Update: Ridership is not equally distributed over the three day schedule. The Sr. Center is sustaining one full day each week but only sporadic usage on the other two days. The Sr. Center is starting to schedule overflow medical requests and denials from our Milford/Hopedale medical transportation van. April of 2019 will mark the one year anniversary of our partnership with the MWRTA. The Director will begin to review the past year's program and present recommendations for the future.

Policy approval: **Rules/Guidelines for Hopedale Sr. Center Use** policy was unanimously approved.

There was a general discussion regarding Sr. Center liability on small trips and whether the Sr. Center should require trip participants to complete and carry on their person, a "File of Life" card. Suggestions for an "Emergency Contact" form was also discussed. There were questions regarding the individual's responsibility to update and maintain accurate medical information. The Board will come to the April 2019 meeting with more developed suggestions on this topic.

Programs for "active older adults" are a growing priority for the Sr. Center. The response to a call for participants for an Outdoor Adventure Group was very successful. More the thirty individuals have expressed an interests in increased outdoor programs. The first program will be a guided 1 ½ hour walk through the Hopedale Parklands on Sat. April 20, 2019 at 11:00 am.

The Sr. Center's first Wellness Fair, "**Wake-up to Your Life**" will be held on Sat. May 4, 2019 at the Hopedale Community House. The Fair will feature alternative and complimentary therapies and practices to enhance general well-being.

Other Monetary Issues: The COA Board will create a schedule to monitor/audit the three COA revolving accounts. Discussion will be ongoing.

Sr. Center Annual BBQ: The Hopedale Friends of Elders will sponsor the upcoming annual BBQ on June 6, 2019 at the Hopedale Community House. The Director will ask the Fire and Police Departments to assist in serving at the event.

The Sr. Center's **Volunteer Breakfast** will be held on May 9, 2019. Atria Draper place will provide the breakfast for the Sr. Center "free of charge".

Expanded programs; Watercolor Painting and Spanish Language classes continue to have active participation. Additionally, the Director continues to explore joint programs with the Hopedale Community House in the areas of exercise and art focused projects.

FY'2020 Budget: The Director has not heard from the Finance Committee regarding, the Board's unanimous vote to seek full-time hours for the COA Director (from 34 to 37.5) in the coming fiscal year. Further discussion took place regarding the COA's potential ability to increase the Outreach Worker's hours (up to an additional 113 hours for FY'2020). The cost for additional Outreach Worker hours would not require additional town funds, due to the increase in the State Formula Grant monies. The Director will follow-up with the Finance Committee and report to the Board at the April 2019 meeting.

The Director reported that the Sr. Center needs to upgrade two of the three computers software to Windows 10. Windows 7 will no longer be supported by Microsoft. Paul Grimes will assist the Sr. Center in the process. The Board passed a motion to spend funds from the Gift Account for one of the computers and seek assistance from the Hopedale Friends of Elders for the other one. The costs of the software upgrades are approximately \$600.00 each.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Eileen Milaszewski/for Secretary Dan Malloy