

The Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2022

Present – At Community House - Carole Mullen, director, Dave Guglielmi, Arlene Williams. On Zoom - Cheryl Moreci, chair, Dan Malloy, secretary, Julia Manning, Eileen Milaszewski, Bob Casali and Charles Duczakowski.

The meeting was called to order by the chair at 1:08.

Minutes – Approved, with the addition of Eileen’s name to the list of those present at the January meeting.

Director’s report – The director explained about a change in an accounting practice by the town, which now requires department heads to submit bills to the town accountant every two weeks. She also reported that the department is not overdrawn on any line.

The 2010 census data is still being used for the formula grant. It provides \$12 per person over 60 in the town. For Hopedale, the number is 1120. The director thinks the number will be over 1500 when the 2020 census numbers become available. More staff will be needed as the over 60 numbers for Hopedale rise.

Van – MWRTA has worked out the insurance for the new (2017 - new to us) van, and it is expected to be delivered next week. David Williams has gone through the van driver training program, and is nearly ready to be a driver for us. He will get further training by Mike Rutkowski.

Tag lines – Because of the large number of items on the agenda for this meeting, discussion of tag lines for signs being made in connection with our anniversary celebration has been put off until the March meeting.

Griffin Dennett Apartments – Carole and Nancy will be planning an event this spring to be held at the Griffin-Dennett Apartments. Over the past several years, many new and younger people have moved in there. The intent of having an activity there is to make residents familiar with the COA.

Tax credit program – An addition to the tax credit program policy, passed by a vote at the January meeting, which states, “A Town employee participating in the Tax Credit Program may not work in the department in which they are employed,” was brought up so that board members could view the wording. Participation in the program is very good this year, with about 25 people in it. Many of them are new to the program. New jobs have been created this year, and for the first time the Highway Department will have a person in the program.

Budget – A preliminary budget has been submitted to the town administrator. It includes a five percent salary increase for department employees. It also includes taking the director position from 34 hours per week to 37.5. Carole discussed the matter of job descriptions, both for the CoA and for the town in general. Cheryl suggested having the town administrator come to a future meeting. Carole will write job descriptions for department employees, contact the town administrator and invite her to meet with us. She will also give us a budget that is broken out so that we can see temp employee salaries in detail. Carole also mentioned that starting last year, the money to pay drivers was moved out of the transportation line and into the part-time salary line. Another point made was that there's no line for paying instructors. Their pay comes from fees for classes, plus about \$3500 from the Friends of Elders.

Lunches – There will be a return to indoor communal lunches starting next month, beginning with a St. Patrick's Day party on March 17. Entertainment will be provided by "DJ Mike" Rutkowski. There will also be one last "grab 'n' go" meal on March 30.

Grant – We have funds through the federal American Recovery act (\$3600) to pay for a yoga program which deals with anxiety. It will be conducted by mental health professionals through Riverside Community Care,

Outreach position – There was a discussion of increasing the number of hours for the outreach position to 24, hiring another person, and splitting the hours, and other related possibilities. This will continue to be under consideration in future meetings.

March meeting – The next meeting will be held on March 24.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59.

Daniel Malloy, secretary