

Holliston Council on Aging
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting (Corrected)

March 10, 2021 - 2:00PM

By zoom: 811 7714 9113

Members Present by Zoom (roll call):

Kathy Anguish, Yvette Cain, Frank Caron, Carmen Chiango, Bob Hopkins, Bob Malone

Staff Present by Zoom:

Linda Marshall, Marty Schneier

Others Present:

Neal Svendsen (SSF), Chris Meo, Town of Holliston; Chris Cain, Holliston Reporter

Bob Hopkins, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:02PM. A quorum was present. Linda Marshall read the statement regarding the suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and the authorized use of remote participation. Bob Hopkins took a roll call of attendance.

The first item on the agenda was the report of Senior Center Director Linda Marshall. She first reported that the Director Search Committee had recommended, and the Select Board approved, the appointment of Lisa Borchetta as new Director, to begin April 5. Linda will graciously continue to serve part time for a few weeks to work with Lisa and help acclimate her to her new position.

Under building issues, Linda specifically complimented Town Facilities Manager James Keast for his attention to maintenance needs at the Center. The interior renovation work continues, with painting and carpeting for the great hall, book store, pool room, computer room, and all offices.

Several grants have been received due to the diligent work of Linda and staff. MAPC has provided a grant of \$34,700 for transportation enhancements. We will partner with Tommy's Taxi of Framingham and JFK Transportation for ADA rides, and supplement out of area and after hours rides as necessary. We also received a \$4,000 grant from Bay Path Elder Services for transportation for seniors to vaccine appointments. Also \$300 has been received from Wheelabrator Technologies for button cell recycling, and two Holliston Cultural Council grants for entertainment. There is also an application outstanding for \$9,500 to Metrowest Health Foundation for the purchase of several tents and chair for outdoor programming in good weather.

The “to go” meals have been successful, and the next will be Monday, March 15, for a drive-by St. Patrick’s Day meal. On Tuesday April 20 there will be a Volunteer Appreciation Day drive-by at Anthony’s On The Green, and on Tuesday May 4 a drive-by cookout to say goodbye to Linda, and hello and welcome to Lisa.

Other programs instituted during the pandemic are doing well. The grant-funded tablet program to decrease social isolation and encourage use of laptop devices (with tech help for senior users) is doing well. Outreach remains extraordinarily busy, with normal needs and anxieties exacerbated by the isolation and concerns of the times.

The building remains open by appointment only. With a group of dedicated volunteers the Center has helped over 100 seniors with appointment for vaccinations, and vaccination clinics were conducted at both Cole Court and Mission Springs.

The Center continues to provide approximately 50 meals per day on Mondays and Wednesdays, driven to seniors by our dedicated drivers. Anticipating a similar demand as we move into FY2022, funding this effort will become a problem. Through June 30 of 2021 the cost of this meals program will exceed \$67,000, more than twice the formula grant funding that normally pays for the meals program. For the current (FY2021) year the program is supported with \$31,000 from formula grant, \$16,000 CARES Act reimbursement, \$10,000 from the nutrition revolving account, and a private donation of \$7,000. The balance of \$3,000 is requested from the SSF.

The proposed 2022 budget has been presented to both the Select Board and Finance Committee. The Select Board approved the budget, including the request for a part time administrative position and an additional \$840 annual expense for the upgraded phone system recently installed. The Finance Committee is not making any decisions until all budgets are reviewed by them.

Requests for current funding from the SSF include \$200 for the Garden Committee, and \$3,750 for meal, beverages, and other items for the Summer Sizzler meal. Approval was moved by Bob Malone, seconded by Frank. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Other requests made by Linda for support were for a general post card mailing in support of vaccinations from available CARES Act funding (moved by Frank, seconded by Yvette, voted unanimously by roll call vote), and a request from Town Administrator Ahern for a partial match of funding for the cost of interior renovations (\$1,500 from the gift fund, moved by Bob Malone, seconded by Carmen, and voted unanimously by roll call vote).

Prior to adjournment there was some brief discussion around two items: Bob Malone suggested that he would like to step down as Chair sometime in the near future, but no later than December 31, 2021, and sooner if someone is identified to step up to the position; and the need to identify some viable candidates for consideration to join the Board. Bob will work with Linda to publicize that need in the community.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05P on motion by Frank, seconded by Kathy, unanimous roll call vote. The next meeting of the Council will be Wednesday, April 14 beginning at 2:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Robert Malone