

Holliston Council on Aging

Meeting Minutes

October 13, 2021, 2:00

Members Present:

Yvette Cain, Frank Caron, Carmen Chiango, Bob Malone, Kathy Anguish, Millie Bedard

Associate Members Present:

Georgia Papavasiliou, Janet Alexander,

Lynn Bajdek absent

Staff Present:

Lisa Borchetta, Marty Schneier, Amanda Boralessa,

Debbie Dupuis absent

Guests:

Chris Cain, Holliston Reporter

Kevin Conley, Blair Square Committee

The meeting was called as a “hybrid” meeting but all attendees were there in person. The meeting was held in accordance with the revised state COVID guidelines in the Senior Center main hall. With a quorum present, Yvette called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Chair’s Comments:

Yvette introduced Kevin Conley who gave the committee the background and overview on the recommended Blair Square improvements. He provided a map of all the landscaping, hardscape, and building along with costs that his committee is proposing. He asked for a letter of support from the Council on Aging for the project to present to the Board of Selectmen. Several members raised concerns including comfortable seating, handicap parking, restrooms, safety concerns, maintenance, timeline, cost to taxpayers and abutters. Yvette will draft a letter with our concerns for review and submission at our next meeting.

Kathy Anguish was unanimously voted as the new Vice Chair of the Council

Peter Eagan has volunteered to be the council's representative for the Holliston's Long Range Planning Committee. Peter is a longstanding member of the Holliston community, familiar with the activities at the Center and has been a real estate agent for many years.

Minutes:

The minutes for the September 8, 2021 monthly meeting unanimously approved.

The minutes for the September 29, 2021 special meeting unanimously approved.

Senior Center Director's Report (Lisa Borchetta):

Building Issues:

Door signs installed for both Administrative Assistants.

The purchase of a new shed (for tables, chairs and tents) is proceeding through the Metrowest Health Foundation.

Cares Act: The center will receive two hand free faucets and handsfree paper towel dispensers for the restrooms. Also looking to purchase a PA system for the tent.

Landscaping around the center completed by DPW: weeded, pruned shrubs and trimmed trees.

Grants and Donations: Numerous donations were made to the center in Edwina Kirby's name.

Programs:

The fall fair was a big success thanks to the Senior Support Foundation and all the volunteers, businesses and organization

Continued and returning programs:

Drive by Breakfast

Watercolor Class with new instructor, Brenda Goldman

Shine with virtual appointments with Pegg Rowe

Friday crafters

Veterans' coffee

Yoga

Podiatry

Blood pressure

Breads, pastries, cakes donated by Stop n Shop

The Blue Grass event with George Chapman was well attended.

Kathy Loring is now manager of the bookstore.

The Center continues to provide space for other local organizations to hold events including the Lions Club, the VFW, The Holliston Garden Club and the American Legion.

COVID-19:

Masks must continue to be worn in all municipal buildings including the center. Hand sanitizers and masks are provided.

Other:

The Cares Act continues to provide the funds for the cost of packaging supplies for delivered meals.

A grant has been submitted to the Metrowest Health Foundation to see if they will support the study of the Holliston 55+ community.

The home repair program is still being worked out. Looking for assistance from the Senior Support Foundation and the Community Action Fund. James Keast is willing to assist with names of providers. A part time program coordinator has been proposed.

A part time van driver is still being sought.

SSF Requests:

\$2,650 was unanimously approved for Halloween Lunch (\$200), Thanksgiving (\$250), Veterans Coffee Hour (\$150,) Staff Holiday Party (\$400), Holiday gifts for service providers (\$250), Holiday party (\$1,200) and gifts for seniors (\$200).

New Business:

Yvette asked for comments from staff members. Amanda mentioned that the Bluegrass event was successful and the center hopes to make similar programs a regular occurrence. She noted that the November/December newsletter was ready to assemble by volunteers. Marty stated that she is still seeing effects from COVID on our seniors

and that transportation requests are increasing. The taxi funding has helped with the cost and the ability for more distant trips to doctors, especially for veterans.

Request to have Coffee with a cop returned.

Everyone thanked Bob for his Halloween treats.

The next meeting is Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:05

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Anguish

October 13, 2021