

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING  
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting  
September 13, 2023 – 2:00 PM

Members Present, Kathy Anguish, Lynne Bajdek, Carmen Chiango, Janet Alexander, and Georgia Papavasiliou.

Absent: Yvette Cain, Millie Bedard

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta, Laura Parmensi

Associate Member Present: Peter Eagan

Call to Order:

The hybrid meeting was conducted in person in the Senior Center classroom, as well as online via Zoom. With a quorum being present, Kathy Anguish, in Yvette Cain's absence, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

Minutes for June 14, 2023 Meeting. Approval of Minutes will be approved at October's meeting.

Chair Comments: Yvette welcomed members back after a summer hiatus, as well as our new Assistant Director, Laura Parmensi. Our 2023-2024 Fiscal Year will incorporate our two new Vision and Mission statements which are now posted on the Town's website. On September 23rd, the COA will have a booth at Celebrate Holliston to disseminate information about our programs and activities.

Senior Center Director's Report - Lisa Borchetta:

General Update:

Lisa will be requesting \$25K from the town for the purpose of hiring an architect to look at options/estimates for updating the interior of the building (to increase capacity) as well as exterior beautification.

The Senior Center bulletin boards and newsletter will add a disclaimer stating that neither the Center nor the Town of Holliston necessarily endorse the various outside organizations and collateral materials that are regularly posted in the Center.

○ Outdoors:

- Director will make a general status presentation to the Select Board on September 14<sup>th</sup>
- The center has purchased new outdoor furniture for members' use, as well as a variety of outdoor games.
- Outdoor and indoor cameras have been installed as a level of security for staff.
- Vegetable garden provided a generous number of vegetables for SC members.
- Holliston Garden Club decorated the main entrance planters and will maintain them.

○ Indoors:

- Unwanted chairs have been removed from the center.
- The building was successfully treated for a hornet nest.
- New artwork has been hung in the center.
- All the offices have been painted.
- One of the outdoor sheds has a new ramp and a repaired roof.
- A new keypad for the garage will be installed soon.

○ Donations:

- Lisa acknowledged all the town's residents and businesses who generously donated time, money and goods to the successful Fall Fair. Lisa gave a special thank you to

the Joseph W. and Faith K. Tiberio Foundation, the Holliston Superette and their customers, and the Holliston Lions Club for their generous donations.

- Grants:
  - Senior Safe Program is ongoing. Since July, fifteen households have either received or are on a list to receive ` safety equipment.
  - Habitat for Humanity – ARPA Program. New applications have been filed and we are waiting for the new Program Manager at Habitat to review them.
  - MA Development Finance Agency – Taxi Grant. Although requests are decreasing, this service is still a valuable complement to our van service.
- Staff Updates:
  - Laura Parmensi, our new Assistant Director, recruited three new volunteers to help with various functions as well as man the receptionist desk on a rotating Friday schedule.
  - All CORI and LGBTQIA+ training has been completed.
  - Two new programs have been reinstated – Blood Pressure Clinic and Pilates.
  - Neil Svendsen has arranged for two upcoming trips – Ireland in May, and America’s Music Cities in September/October.
  - Melicia Dacosta is no longer employed at the Center and Lisa is actively advertising for a new Outreach/Transportation Coordinator.
  - Neil Svendsen and Sheila Joslin have stepped down from organizing the Fall Fair. Neil will be staying on the SSF to investigate additional fund raisers.
  - Ellie Stockpole was instrumental in pitching in and helping with various duties during our reduced staff needs. Her part time status has been withdrawn and Ellie continues to be a volunteer.
- SSF Requests: Motion to approve \$1465 was unanimously approved (moved by Lynn, seconded by Millie) for the following:

Select Chat for Sept/Oct	\$100.00 Credit Card
Coffee with Holliston Police -Sept/Oct	\$100.00 Credit Card
Veteran’s Coffee – Sept/Oct	\$100.00 Credit Card
Lunch and a Movie – Sept/Oct	\$275.00 Credit Card
Monthly Breakfast – Sept/Oct	\$200.00 Credit Card
Newsletter Folding Event – October	\$200.00 Credit Card
Halloween Lunch	\$350.00 Credit Card
Pumpkin Decorating Contest Prizes	\$ 60.00 Credit Card
Bingo – Sept/Oct	\$ 80.00 Cash

#### New Business

Kathy suggested we appoint a liaison from the Center to connect with, and feed, the new manager of the Holliston Reporter with current events.

Kathy has requested we adjust the monthly COA meeting start time from 2:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

Discussion has been tabled until October meeting.

#### Old Business:

**Envisioning Holliston Update** – Peter Eagan gave an update. Berry Dunn will be wrapping up in the next 45 days. There is a draft of the strategic plan online along with a survey and an idea wall providing feedback opportunities for the community. The Consultant will hold community forums in September and then the committee will vote on the final strategic plan which will be presented at the October 16 Town Meeting.

Adjournment:

Motion to Adjourn was unanimously approved (Georgia moved; Lynn seconded). Next scheduled meeting is October 11, 2023 at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander