

Holliston Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes, December 9, 2021

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Carmen Chiango, Bob Malone, Kathy Anguish, Millie Bedard

Associate Members Present: Georgia Papavasiliou, Janet Alexander, Lynn Bajdek, Peter Eagan

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta, Marty Schneier, Amanda Boralessa, Debbie Dupuis

Guest: Chris Cain, Holliston Reporter (remote)

The meeting was called as a “hybrid” meeting and was held in accordance with the revised state COVID guidelines in the Senior Center class room and remote. With a quorum present Yvette called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Minutes: Minutes for November 10, 2021 meeting unanimously approved.

Chairman’s Comment (Yvette Cain):

Director’s Performance Review timeline: December 17: Lisa self-evaluation. January 21: Chair reviews and adds narration. Then sent to Travis Ahern.

FY 2023 Budget Procedure and time line

01/21/22 Department request with COA approval due to Travis Ahern

02/24/22 Travis Ahern recommended budget due to Select Board and FinCom

03/15/22 Select Board recommended budget

04/12/22 FinCom Recommended budget

05/09/22 Town meeting approved budget

Liasons: to Select Board - John Cronin; to FinCom - Mark Whittaker and Michelle Zeamer

Due to the Director’s Performance Review and the Budget Procedures, the CoA unanimously approved a date change for our next meeting to January 19, 2022 at 2:00pm.

The Council is still looking to fill the vacancy left by Bob Hopkins.

Report from Long Range Planning Committee (Peter Eagan):

Peter has attended three meetings with their emphasis on the vision survey. To date only 164 people have responded with 29 from citizens over 65. The committee was asking if the computer room could be used to assist seniors in filling in the survey. The CoA had much discussion on determining if there was a better way to get results i.e. forms in the senior center, mailing with water bill etc. Suggestions were made that the Long Range Planning Committee needed a better way to get the survey out to seniors. Right now most of the interest is in the schools. Amanda said that the survey information will be in the upcoming newsletter.

Report from BayPath (Georgia Papavasiliou):

Grant Cycle for funding opportunities starts 4/1/22 and ends 9/23/22 for transportation, family care, and health issues. Applications are due 1/20/22.

There is a shortage of aids and home care workers. They are looking for funds to increase compensation to workers.

Adult foster care is being discontinued due to expense and static growth of program.

BayPath and SpringWell are merging by 7/1/22.

Senior Center Director's Report (Lisa Borchetta):

Building Issues: James Keast and DPW crew stored tent and outside chairs and tables in the garage. The new shed should arrive by the end of December. The fall cleanup has been done and dumpster removed.

Grants:

MWHF (Metro West Health Foundation): The request for \$25,000 for the Survey of Holliston's 55+ Community was approved. The grant will begin April 2022 and the ARPA Steering Committee for Holliston will commit additional costs up to \$20,000. The expected cost is approximately \$35,000 utilizing the UMass-Boston, Gerontological Institute. The survey would start in March/April and end in September, approximately 9 mos.

ARPA: Home Repair Program. The committee still has remaining concerns the administrative cost. Lisa will be meeting with Travis to discuss their concerns.

Donations: Modest donations are still coming in from residence and friends. "Gifts for Seniors" has had a wonderful community response.

Programs:

The Thanksgiving luncheon was a success with a meal from Bossy's Catering. Debra Flowers decorated the Hall and Tommy Rull provided entertainment.

Several other groups have resumed or continued including the crafters, coloring and coffee group, the photography group, and veteran's coffee.

Preparations are underway for the Christmas holiday parties.

Coffee with the Holliston Police is coming soon.

Covid 19:

The mask mandate has been extended to the end of January, 2022.

At the Booster Clinic on December 8th 102 shots were administered.

Other: We have a new van driver, Bruce Connolly, who will start after his training. Ellie Stackpole has resigned as a van driver. We thank her for her service and wish her well.

Volunteer Help Wanted: Volunteers are needed for the kitchen, reception desk, and someone to film events for HCAT.

Other Community Organizations: The center continues to host community groups. Lately the center was used by the VFW, Girl Scout Troops, Lions Club and Holliston Garden Club.

SSF Request: \$1,670 was unanimously approved. The request included: Bingo (\$120), Coffee with Police (\$150), Veteran's Coffee Hour (\$150), Lunch and Movie (\$450), Valentine's lunch (\$250), Valentine's Blackstone Valley String Duet (\$300), St. Patrick's Day (\$250).

Staff Reports:

Lisa: busy, busy busy.

Amanda: Today is her 6th month anniversary with the Senior Center. This December has been the busiest month for her so far. She is scheduling future programs like Gary Hylander, lunch and movie, etc.

Marty: Fuel assistance is ongoing. Booster shot clinic went very well thanks to the volunteers. The Framingham Rotary Club provided a motorized wheelchair for a Holliston citizen.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:53 pm.

Happy Holidays to all!

Respectively submitted

Kathleen Anguish

December 9, 2021