

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
February 9, 2022 – 2:00 PM

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Kathy Anguish, Carmen Chiango, Frank Caron

Members Absent: Bob Malone, Millie Bedard

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta, Amanda Boralessa. Absent: Debbie Dupuis

Associate Members Present: Janet Alexander, Lynn Bajdek, Peter Eagan. Absent: Georgia Papavasilliou

Guest: Chris Cain (Holliston Reporter)

Call to Order:

The hybrid meeting was conducted in person in the Senior Center classroom, in accordance with revised state guidelines for wearing masks in municipal buildings, as well as online via Zoom. Yvette took a visual attendance, and with a quorum being present, called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

Minutes for both December 2021 Meeting and January 19, 2022 Meeting were unanimously approved (moved by Frank, seconded by Kathy):

Public Comments: None

Chair's Comments:

Yvette explained the Division of Open Government (DOG) New Interpretation of Exception for Public Body Quorums Attending Meeting of another Public Body. For example, if a quorum of the COA Board were to attend a Selectman Board Meeting, the COA would need to treat it as a meeting, post notice with Town Clerk, take attendance and record the minutes.

Town Administrator, Travis Ahearn is launching a new HCAT program "Ask the TA" to increase community engagement. Residents can send questions to AskTheTA@holliston.k12.ma.us.

State Representative, Carolyn Dykema will resign from her office effective February 11, 2022. She has accepted a position as Northeast Policy Director at Nexamp, a clean energy company. Her departure will leave residents without representation in the House until voters can choose a successor.

Former Senior Center Director, Lina Arena-DeRosa's mother, Carmela Arena, passed away on February 2, 2022.

Holliston's 300 Year Anniversary will be celebrated in 2024. Share your ideas on how seniors can be involved.

Staff Updates: Amanda Boralessa

Amanda is currently working on the March/April newsletter. Some activities coming up are two sustainability events, St. Patrick's luncheon, Gary Hylander talks, and a seminar on health.

Honorable Debra Squires-Lee will speak on the US Judicial System. Questions may be sent to Amanda prior to the March 25 presentation.

The Bookstore will be renamed as the Maria Thorne and Edwina Kirby bookstore.

Anyone wishing to receive their newsletter digitally should contact Amanda . The paper newsletters are sent out monthly to 3100 residents, at a cost of \$600/month for postage. This expense doesn't include the paper, toner and printer maintenance.

Action: Lisa will check into the possibility of utilizing advertisers to offset the cost of the newsletter.

Senior Center Director's Report Lisa Borchetta:

- No significant building issues. DPW has been monitoring the parking lot regarding ice and has been heavily salting. Will look into long-range solutions. Center is still waiting on the shed to be delivered.
- Overall plan for Holliston's 55+ survey project with MetroWest Health Foundation and ARPA will begin in April with a completion date around December 2022. First steps will be to look at profile of town, determine focus groups, and pulling together survey.
- Home Repair Programs for Low Income Seniors:
 - Senior Safe Program, funded through ARPA, will be centered around installation of safety equipment (grab bars), smoke detectors, and carbon monoxide detectors. Fire Department is working on identifying who could benefit from this program.
 - Further repairs, focused on safety and livability, has been discussed with Habitat for Humanity. Funds will be directed to Habitat for installation of safety equipment for low-income seniors.
- Linda Marshall is temporarily providing Outreach/Transportation coverage until a full-time staff person is hired. Lisa is also looking and interviewing for a part-time Van Driver.
- FY23 budget will be presented to Town Administrator on February 14th.
- In house events that include meals will continue to be on hold for month of February.
- AARP Tax services program has resumed.
- Masks are still required in the Senior Center, until further notice.

SSF Request:

Motion to approve the SSF Request below was unanimously approved (moved by Kathy; seconded by Frank).

Valentine's Lunch	\$1,260 (check)
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SSF request in January for Valentine's Lunch (\$250) was to cover paper goods and goody bags. Any unused funds requested and approved, are either returned to SSF or redistributed to other expenses.

Envisioning Future Holliston Update: Peter Eagan

As COA liaison for the Envisioning Holliston committee, Peter stated that the initial survey is now closed and the Data Subcommittee will be meeting on 2/9/2022 to present results of survey and discuss and fine tune second survey to the full committee. Ben Sparrell, committee member and Select Board member, offers special expertise on analyzing the data. Out of 400 responses, the 65+ population equaled 18% of total responses. Overall, categories of *Senior Friendly* and *Housing* scored the lowest, while *Schools*, *Businesses* and *Environment* received the highest priority. Peter commented on the strong correlation between *Senior Friendly* and *Housing*. The ability to retire and find affordable housing in Holliston will be an issue for this age category.

New Business: None

Adjournment:

Yvette asked for a Motion to Adjourn (Kathy moved; Frank seconded). Vote was unanimous. Next Meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022 at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 2:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander