

Holliston Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2022

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Kathy Anguish, Carmen Chiango, Frank Caron (remote), Bob Malone (remote).

Members Absent: Millie Bedard

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

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

Guest: Chris Cain, Holliston Reporter

Call to Order:

The meeting was conducted in person (and remote) in the Senior Center classroom in accordance revised state COVID guidelines. With a quorum present Yvette called the meeting to order at 2:01 PM.

Minutes for the February 2022 Meeting were unanimously approved.

Chair's Comments, (Yvette Cain)

March being Women's History Month, Yvette wanted to honor the brave women in Ukraine for all they are going through. We should also applaud the women at our Senior Center, staff and volunteers, for all the work they do keeping the center operating in these times.

Citizens can receive 4 more COVID test kits free from the Federal Government using the same process as last time.

The 2023 town budget is now posted on the town's website. You can note what was requested and what has been recommended.

Citizens can sign up for Holliston Home Town Newsletter by the Town Administrator. The Spring edition is now available.

Staff Updates:

Amanda:

People are signing up to get the Senior Newsletter digitally.

Volunteers are reaching out to help out in the center.

An Eagle Scout will be replacing the two benches in front of the center and planting a garden.

Lunches on Mondays and Wednesdays are now in person.

Planning is ongoing for the St. Pat's Party. There are still openings. The maximum number is 75.

There is a possibility we will be getting a textile recycle drop-off placement at the center.

Senior Center Director's Report (Lisa)

SENIOR SAFE PROGRAM: Holliston's Senior Center in conjunction with the Fire Department have gotten the "Senior Safe Program" underway. The program which provides (installed) grab bars and, if needed, smoke and/or carbon monoxide detectors in the homes of Holliston's older adult residents. Firefighter and handyman, John Gannon, is scheduling installations of grab bars as part of the program. Smoke detectors can also be checked and installed. A special smoke detector for a hearing impaired resident is being installed through this program.

ARPA: Lisa is in contact with Habitat for Humanity to see what they need from us. This program will require that participants meet state low-income guidelines. Details are still being worked out but we hope to apply for ARPA funding to support this program and get it moving forward soon.

MWHF Updates: The survey grant program with the University of Massachusetts-Boston, Gerontology Institute is about to get underway. Looking for participants for focus groups and key informant interviews. (A handout was given to the members regarding a Massachusetts town better serving its older population after their participation in a similar study with the UMass-Boston Gerontology Institute).

COVID: masks are now optional for in-person events, with the exception of the AARP Tax Preparation which runs through April 4.

Melicia DaeCosta has been hired as our new Outreach and Transportation Coordinator as of March 28th. Linda Marshall will continue this coverage on a part time basis.

Next week, a couple of candidates are being interviewed for part time van driver positions.

SSF Requests: \$3,440 funding was unanimously approved for the following:

For April and May: Coffee with the Police \$100, Veteran's Coffee Hour \$100, Lunch and a Movie \$350, Monthly Breakfast, \$200. Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast in April \$1,600, Summer Cookout in May \$1000, Serv Safe Training—Volunteers \$90.

New Business: Peter reported that the Survey for Future Holliston is posted online and the committee is waiting for the format of the second survey.

Georgia Papavasilliou was unanimously voted in as a voting member for Holliston Council on Aging.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:21 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 13th at 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Anguish

