

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting
April 13, 2022 – 2:00 PM

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Kathy Anguish, Carmen Chiango, Frank Caron, Bob Malone, Georgia Papavasiliou and Millie Bedard

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

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

Guest: Chris Cain (Holliston Reporter)

Call to Order:

The hybrid meeting was conducted in person in the Senior Center classroom, with masks being optional, as well as online via Zoom. Yvette took a visual attendance, and with a quorum being present, called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM.

Minutes for March 9, 2022 Meeting was unanimously approved (moved by Frank, seconded by Kathy).

Communications:

Yvette made a minor change to the meeting format by introducing an opportunity for COA Board members and staff to communicate to the group anything new that they became aware of since our last meeting.

Kathy brought up the Rail Trail Committee's statement that the only expense to the community for enhancing the area would be for sidewalks. The estimated cost is \$600,000 and it will be up for a vote at the next town meeting. Kathy further explained that any money raised would offset this cost. Discussion regarding the approval of the Community Preservation Committee was questionable. To date, no mention on senior issues such as bathroom facilities, parking or sitting preferences have been forthcoming.

Melicia DaCosta is enjoying her new position as Outreach and Transportation Coordinator and getting to know procedures and people. She has prior experience in this role and is happy to help seniors with their needs.

Yvette announced the June 2022 end of term for certain members is coming up and she should be notified if they want to be reinstated.

Yvette congratulated Lisa on her first year anniversary and for successfully rolling out her first two goals – The MWHF & ARPA Survey of Holliston's 55+ Community and The Home Repair Program for low-income seniors. Revisions were made over the course of the year, but at Lisa's persistence, ARPA approved the program.

Amanda is currently working on next month's activities. Both Fall presentations and day trips will be reinstated. A textile bin has been placed on site. All donations will benefit the senior center, as well as local charities. Amanda is currently looking for additional lunch and

receptionist volunteers. The Middle School students will be on site on May 27 to assist with the garden, clean up, etc.

Senior Center Director's Report Lisa Borchetta:

- Building issues – New electrical panels have been installed, furnace room has been cleaned and James Keast, on behalf of Selectmen, has gifted a new shredder to the center.
 - Grants:
 - Metropolitan Area Planning Council has added \$6,000 for taxi usage through June.
 - MetroWest Health Foundation Grant, Technology Grant. Lisa is seeking an extension until the end of the year since these services haven't been utilized to date.
 - Senior Safe Program is running smoothly. Chief Cassidy has ordered grab bars, smoke detectors and CO2 detectors.
 - ARPA – Town of Holliston. Lisa passed around a handout of the Revised ARPA Funding Request that was sent to Travis Ahern on April 2, 2022 outlining the Justification for Request, Proposed Intervention for two phases, Total Cost Estimate for next 2.5 years, and Spending Timeline. The handout was not discussed.
- We will be receiving \$75,000 for the balance of 2022 to assist low-income seniors with critical home repairs. This program is in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and there is potential for another \$330,000 over the next two years. Between 10-12 projects focused on safety and livability are estimated per year.
- MetroWest Health Foundation & ARPA Survey of Holliston's 55+ Community. Key informant interviews and focus group lists will be sent to UMB this week. Survey is scheduled to conclude the end of 2022.
 - FY23 budget was approved by Finance Committee.
 - The St. Patrick's luncheon was the biggest in-person event held this year.
 - Stephen Whitermore is the new van driver and is currently in training. The Center is also close to filling the position of part time van driver, bringing the current coverage up to prior years.

SSF Request:

Motion to approve the SSF Credit Card Requests below (adding up to \$975) was unanimously approved (moved by Bob Malone; seconded by Millie Bedard).

Coffee with Holliston Police for June	\$50
Veteran's Coffee Hour for June	\$50
Lunch and Movie for June	\$175
Monthly Breakfast for June	\$100
Summer Sizzler Treats	\$400
Newsletter Folding (June)	\$100

Movie Screening – Gen Silent

\$100

Old Business

COA Feedback for Envisioning Future Holliston Committee Survey #1

Yvette highlighted three main topics for discussion – Survey Content, Survey Format and Recommended Actions. Board was in agreement on:

Requesting responder's personal needs for the next five years (e.g. transportation for medical appointments, personal public safety (volunteer firefighters vs. full time paid firefighters, Advanced Life Support, etc.)

Using alternate methods of survey completion – adding printed versions, designating public buildings to pick up surveys, distributing surveys at functions, attaching survey to senior center newsletter, etc..

Monthly or ongoing communication is encouraged and recommended between Lisa Borchetta and Ben Sparrell to share information and questions gathered from both the UMASS Boston Gerontology Institutes Survey of Holliston's 55+ population and the Envisioning Future Holliston Committee Survey.

Peter Eagan, COA Liaison and Data Sub Committee member, stated that the focus needs to be on how we get the second survey out to the public, especially the 80-year-olds. The goal is to get 1000 responses from the town's total population. The second survey will be presented at the Fall Town Meeting.

Yvette asked for a motion for the COA to send a memo to the Envisioning Holliston Committee outlining our feedback as stated above. The motion moved by Bob, seconded by Frank, was unanimously approved.

New Business: None

Adjournment:

Yvette asked for a Motion to Adjourn (Kathy moved; Millie seconded). Vote was approved unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander