

Holliston Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2022

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

Associate Members Present: Lynn Bajdek. Peter Eagen and Janet Alexander absent.

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta, Amanda Boralessa, Melicia DeCosta. Debbie Dupuis absent.

Guest: Chris Cain, Holliston Reporter.

Call to Order: The hybrid meeting was conducted in person and on-line in the Senior Center classroom in accordance with revised state COVID guidelines. With a quorum present Yvette called the meeting to order at 2:05 PM.

Meeting minutes from April 13, 2022 were unanimously approved.

Communications:

Yvette thanked everyone who went to town meeting and noted that the Senior Center budget was approved. Bob Hopkins will be the Marshall of the Memorial Day Parade. She reminded everyone that the Monument for the Iraq/Afghan vets will be dedicated on May 14th near Blair Square.

Bob Malone indicated that at Town Meeting the \$60,000 was not approved for the senior center. (After the meeting it was learned that this was just a typo).

Amanda told us about the 4 lunches she is working on: VFW, Summer Sizzler, Volunteer Appreciation and the cookout. Ukulele class is starting soon. The center is in need of an instructor to reinstate the Fall Prevention class. A Junior honor student has approached the center to help with IT for the seniors. Another high school student has held a successful shoe drive. Students from the middle school will visit the center at the end of the month to help with more outdoor cleanup and other chores around the center.

Melicia is continuing to work on the Senior SAFE Program and the Senior Home Repair Program with Habitat for Humanity.

Director's Report:

Building issues: The new electrical panels have been labelled, grounds have been cleaned up. Facilities and maintenance through James Keats have been approved by Town Meeting for \$60,000 for exterior improvements including drainage.

Grants:

Metropolitan Area Planning Council: The Center is continuing to utilize the tax grant to augment van services. This expires on June 30, 2022. The staff is looking for monies to replace this.

MetroWest Health Foundation Grant, Technology Grant Extension: The center has requested and received an extension on the technology grant through the end of December 2022. Amanda and Lisa are looking for ways to utilize existing funds with classes, tutoring, tablets, etc.

Senior SAFE Program: John Gagnon continues to assist Senior Holliston residents (aged 60+) with grab bars, smoke alarms and CO2 detectors. This is done in coordination with Chief Michael Cassidy of the Holliston Fire Dept.

ARPA: Lisa met with Travis Ahern, Holliston Town Administrator, and Deborah Maruca Hoak, Director of the Worcester Habitat for Humanity, to discuss collaboration. Looking for July launch for program. The center will be receiving \$75,000 for “first leg” of the project for the balance of 2022 from the town’s ARPA funds to assist low-income seniors with critical home repairs. There is a potential for another \$330,000 in ARPA funds over the next two years.

Metro West Health Foundation & ARPA--Survey of Holliston’s 55+ Community: Key information interviews have begun. Focus groups are being organized for June. Lisa and Yvette met with Envision Future Holliston committee to let them know about the UMB Senior Survey with the hopes of collaborating on how the data is utilized for Holliston’s future development. The EFH committee did include a slide the Center created for the Town Meeting.

Bay Path – **FY23** Grant Cycle. Applied for two grants for the FY23 Grant Cycle. Both would fall under the Title IID (evidence-based programming) funding umbrella. Our primary areas of interest are to train instructors to teach two classes: Respecting Choices: Advance Care Planning and Stay Active and Independent for Life. Bay Path requested a letter of interest. The amount is \$8,000.

Donations: Lisa acknowledged all the large and small donations received from the Holliston Community including books, medical equipment, monetary donations and also all the volunteer hours by many Holliston Residents.

FY23 Budget. Approved by 2022 **S**pring Town Meeting

COVID 19: Masking continues to be optional. In the last few weeks more people are wearing masks in the center. The center remains open to adjusting programs and event scheduling as needed.

Staff: The center has a new part time van driver. Howard "Scott" Babitts. He joined the staff last week and is currently completing his MWRTA training. This puts the center at full staffing for van drivers.

SSF Request: The members unanimously approved \$1,200 for July and August for Chat with a Select board Member (Ben Sparrell is interested in coming) \$100, Coffee with Holliston Police \$50, Veteran's Coffee Hour \$50, Lunch and a Movie \$350, Monthly Breakfast \$200, Treats for Ice Cream Social \$350, Newsletter Folding Event \$100.

Old Business

Envisioning **Future** Holliston: Yvette read part of an email from Pete with an update from Envisioning Future Holliston Chair Stacey Raffi. The second survey will be available on line, and information may be provided at the Town Election, and possibly at a Farmer's Market. The committee has 17 members. They meet next June 9th, 2022.

New Business: Frank Caron has resigned his membership as of June 2022. The committee unanimous accepted this action. Bob Malone took a minute to remind us of all the good things Frank has done for the committee. His last meeting will be in June.

Yvette is starting work on the Membership committee. Possibility of a subcommittee regarding our survey was suggested.

The next meeting is June 8, 2022 at 2:00 PM.

Adjourned at 2:30. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Anguish

