

HOLLISTON COUNCIL ON AGING  
Minutes of Regular Monthly Meeting  
September 14, 2022 – 2:00 PM

Members Present: Yvette Cain, Kathy Anguish, Carmen Chiango, Georgia Papavasiliou, Lynn Bajdek and Millie Bedard.

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

Associate Members Present: Janet Alexander, Peter Eagan (Remote).

Guests: 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 an audio roll call, and with a quorum being present, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Minutes for June 8, 2022 Meeting. Correction to add Chris Cain as an attendee. Minutes were unanimously approved (moved by Kathy, seconded by Carmen).

Minutes for August 8, 2022 Special Meeting. Unanimously approved (moved by Kathy, seconded by Millie).

Comments:

No Public Comments

Staff Comments:

Amanda highlighted some of the upcoming activities planned, i.e. Coffee House and Art Show. The Tech Class for tablets will be offering 8 classes in October and 6 in November. Classes are 100% filled with a waiting list.

Melicia stated that there is an increase in people requesting transportation and medical equipment. The SMOC Fuel Assistance Program is ramping up. Home visits have dropped off recently but expects an increase as referrals from police/fire departments for safety issues, one-on-one conversations regarding ADA transportation, etc. are brought forth.

Member Comments:

Georgia praised the staff and volunteers for the efficiency in which the Fall Fair was accomplished.

Yvette acknowledged the hard work and dedication by SSF Officers, staff, and family of volunteers that participated in the Fall Fair. She publicly thanked Kathy and Carmen for helping her with the review and additional questions on the UMass Survey. Yvette shared information about the “Holliston’s Bike and Listening Tour of Norfolk Street”, which will allow riders the opportunity to learn more about the activities and programs offered at Stoddard and Patoma Parks, as well as voice their thoughts on road conditions, traffic conditions, etc.

Yvette encouraged all members to attend the “Select Chat” on Friday, September 16 at 9:30 a.m. Ben Sparrell will be available to answer questions.

Our MA Senate President Karen Spilka is hosting a Senior Health and Wellness Fair at Keefe Tech on October 22, 2022. It is an intergenerational event inviting younger generations to accompany older family members to engage in workshops and activities.

#### Senior Center Director’s Report Lisa Borchetta:

- “By The Numbers” Overview:
  - Lisa shared statistics on overall usage of the Senior Center and activities throughout the year. Participation included number of visitors and volunteers, programs, classes, lunches, professional assistance, transportation, outreach consultation, etc. Data will help in tracking year-to-year participation as well as grant requests.
- Building Issues:
  - A wider, concrete front ramp was provided through funding by the Facilities Department. The wooden ramp in the back of the Center will also be replaced. And the drainage issue near the garage will be addressed this fall.
  - A deep cleaning of the kitchen floor and mats will be scheduled in late September.
  - Due to the severe heat and drought this summer, the Senior Center gardens weren’t at their peak but Kathy Anguish and Yvette Cain along with the garden volunteers were still able to provide enough vegetables for lunches and the giveaway table.
- Grants:
  - UMass Boston 55+ Survey. Key informant interviews and focus groups were held this spring and summer. Postcards and the survey will be sent out to all 55+ households this month.
  - Habit for Humanity/ARPA – Home Repair Program. Applications are being submitted and two projects have been approved for repairs. Additional request for funds has been approved by the Select Board which will create the opportunity for future projects.
  - State Formula Grant. Allotment received from the State will be based on the 2020 Census.
- Donations:
  - Donations in memory of Charlie Coles, and the Superette help to support our nutrition program. Generous donations from the SSF, businesses, residents and nearby communities contributed to the success of our annual Fall Fair.
- Covid 19:
  - The Holliston Board of Health supplied 338 boxes of Covid test kits that were distributed to residents. Lisa will check to see if test kits will be available for 2023.

- SSF Requests:

- Motion to approve the SSF Credit Card/Cash Requests below (adding up to \$1170) was unanimously approved (moved by Kathy; seconded by Georgia).

▪ Coffee with Holliston Police (Sept-Nov)	\$75
▪ Bingo (Sept-Nov)	\$120 (Cash)
▪ Veteran's Coffee Hour (Sept-Nov)	\$75
▪ Select Chat (Sept-Nov)	\$75
▪ Coffee House (Sept – paper goods, desserts, coffee)	\$250
▪ Newsletter Folding (October)	\$100
▪ Halloween (Treat bags, paper goods, drinks)	\$300
▪ Lunch and Movie (October)	\$175

Old Business:

Election of COA Secretary.

Yvette asked members if anyone had an interest in filling the position of Secretary. No one volunteered. Janet Alexander, Associate Member, will continue to take and report the minutes.

Envisioning Future Holliston Update (Peter Eagan)

Second survey closed in early August. Out of 1105 responses, 34% were from the over 60+ age group. The Data Analysis Sub-Committee was submitting results to the full committee on September 14 and hoped to get a vote to “release the raw data results” so that they can be put on the Town website, and to vote on final recommendation for Fall Town Meeting to hire a consultant (on Town Warrant). The role of a consultant would help us gather and analyze further data; assist with the building of a vision that bridges and connects existing strategic plans from board and committees throughout Town; review by-laws and make recommended changes/updates that may be needed; and make a recommendation about a potential Master Plan.

New Business:

Resignation of Kevin Robert Malone, effective September 1, 2022 was approved unanimously (Moved by Kathy; seconded by Carmen). Yvette read aloud Bob's written resignation and acknowledged Bob's contributions throughout the year and her personal gratitude for his mentorship. Holliston Reporter will post an open position to fill Bob's vacant seat.

“Town of Holliston Code of Conduct Policy for Town Elected and Appointed Official”. Yvette opened the floor for discussion regarding purpose and wording of policy as it pertains to our

members. After much conversation, the draft was unanimously approved (moved by Kathy; seconded by Georgia).

Adjournment:

Yvette asked for a Motion to Adjourn (Georgia moved; Kathy seconded). Motion was approved unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for October 12, 2022 at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander