

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

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

Staff Present: Lisa Borchetta, Amanda Boralessa-Looper, Melicia DaCosta and Debbie Dupuis.

Associate Member Present: Peter Eagan.

Guests: Chris Cain (Holliston Reporter) (remote)

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 2:01 PM.

Minutes for October 12, 2022 Meeting. Minutes were unanimously approved (moved by Kathy, seconded by Millie).

Comments:

Public Comments: None

Staff Comments:

- Amanda commented on the busyness of the season and all the activities associated with it – namely the senior gift drive, holiday lunches, volunteer appreciation lunch, as well as collaboration with the Lion’s Club, Holliston Newcomers and Neighbors, Holliston Schools, and the Holliston Girl Scout troops. The Technology class is wrapping up and Amanda is now focusing on events for January and February.
- Melicia stated that the Fuel Assistance and the Transportation programs are ramping up. Regarding fuel assistance, Melicia has been helping people fill out applications online and in person, and clarifying the income eligibility, which is higher than many anticipate. Melicia also shared other resources (SMOC, Eversource and Habitat for Humanity) that may possibly be tapped relative to HVAC equipment.

Chair Comments:

- Communication from Bob Malone stating he is settling into his new home and life in Maine.
- Yvette acknowledged and thanked all the town residents who voted favorably on the Town Warrant for the \$10K for our HVAC, as well as showing up to vote on November 8. Yvette also thanked the Holliston Vets for their sacrifices and contributions on our behalf.
- Mary Greendale’s “Just Thinking: Sidewalks” episode on HCAT, featured Vince Murphy, Melissa Kaspern, Tina Hein, and Carmen Chiango. The episode discussed the walkability, handicap accessibility, safety, and maintenance of sidewalks. Carmen focused on the

problems of non-even surfaces, keeping the sidewalks clear in the winter, and improving the quality of life for seniors and the disabled.

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

- Building Issues:
  - Fall Fair clean-up is near completion.
  - DPW crew trimmed back shrubs around building.
  - Facilities connected downspouts on kitchen side of building to improve drainage. The drainage issues by the garage will be addressed at a later date.
  - The billiard tabletops will be tightened at no charge.
  - Staff is exploring solutions for setting up and breaking down tables and chairs for the various events. They don't have the manpower to keep up with the demand - currently Facilities consists of a one person staff.
- Grants:
  - **UMass Boston 55+ Survey Results** will be presented via a hybrid meeting by the UMass Boston Research team to the Select Board on Monday, January 9 at 7 pm, and in a community live presentation at the senior center on January 17 at 11 am. The total number of surveys received were 1, 174 paper surveys and 149 online responses out of a possible 3,873 population over the age of 60 years old. That's approximately a 35% response rate. Data gathered from this survey will be Incorporated into the Envisioning Future Holliston strategic plan. Also, based on survey results, discussions regarding COA's interest in pursuing Holliston becoming a certified age-friendly or dementia-friendly community, may be of interest.
  - **Senior Safe Program and Habitat for Humanity/ARPA – Home Repair Programs.** Still receiving applicants for safety equipment installations. A couple of home repair projects have been approved and awaiting start dates.
  - **MA Development Finance Agency.** Received a \$21,500 taxi grant which will be a great adjunct to the van transportation.
- Covid 19:
  - The Senior Center has test kits available that are good until January 2023.
- Code of Conduct/Review Committee met last week to review focus and practices that other organizations follow and to discuss the needs, principles, and guidelines that we would like to adopt.
  - Yvette will follow up with the Youth & Family Services and Library for their input.
- Other:
  - Debbie Dupuis is back full time.
  - Delivered meals have been reduced to 19 and the cost is being covered by the Formula Grant.
  - Lisa received an inquiry regarding socialization of seniors who do not have, or do not wish to have, a physical presence at the senior center. Ideas were shared by members including call programs (telephone assurance), in-person visits from another senior, as well as participation from high school students and scouts.
- SSF Requests:
  - Motion to approve the SSF Credit Card/Cash Requests below (adding up to \$415) was unanimously approved (moved by Georgia; seconded by Kathy).

▪ Coffee with Holliston Police (February)	\$50
▪ Bingo (February)	\$40 (Cash)
▪ Veteran's Coffee Hour (February)	\$50
▪ Select Chat (February)	\$50
▪ Lunch and Movie (January)	\$175
▪ Three Simple Secrets	\$50

#### New Business:

**Update on Envisioning Future Holliston Committee:** Peter Eagan is the bridge and voice of the Council on Aging and will be continuing on the Envisioning Future Holliston Committee under the service area of Health & Human Services. The Committee reduced its members from 14 to 7, made up of Health & Human Services, General Government Services, Public Education, Sustainability/Environment, Economic Development/Housing, Land Use, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. The mission of the group is to develop a townwide strategic plan. The first order of business is to review Request for Proposals for consulting services to review the results of both the EFH and UMass surveys. The town appropriated \$80K for the consulting services.

#### Adjournment:

Yvette asked for a Motion to Adjourn (Kathy moved; Georgia seconded). Motion was approved unanimously. Next Meeting is scheduled for December 14, 2022 at 2:00 PM. Meeting adjourned at 3:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Alexander