

East Longmeadow Council on Aging (COA)
Tuesday, March 9, 2021 – Board Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order at 9:03AM by Chairperson Barbara J. Farrell. Members were notified the meeting was being recorded.
- II. Roll Call:
Mary Beth Dowd, Alicia Smith, Barbara Farrell, Doreen Harrison, Jane Desilets, Joseph Barker, Julie Dunlop, Sharon Giordano, Melinda Mandeville.
- III. Approval of February 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes:
Approval by Doreen Harrison and seconded by Joe Barker of the meeting minutes accepted with the correction (date) of the Vision the Future of East Longmeadow (EL).
- IV. Director's Report:
Vaccines in EL are progressing. Residents are first in line to receive the vaccine. Residents of Senior Housing in town are being visited to receive their first dose. The second doses will be given at the senior center for residents 75 and over that received their first dose at the Senior Center. Continuing first doses depends on the State providing vaccine.

The Massachusetts Council on Aging (MCOA) approved a grant. The money needs to be used by June 1, 2021. The EL COA will use the money to purchase iPads (~10) for senior residents without computers and safety supplies once the center opens.

The director noted the staff is hoping to open the EL COA. Fitness equipment needs to be fixed before opening. The kitchen was inspected and it was noted there needs to be an "on site" individual with anti-choking skills per the kitchen inspection. The dish washer broke and it needs to be fixed before opening. It's not known if those visiting the center will need to be vaccinated.

The Food Bank continues to be utilized (36/January; 41/February.)

- V. Program/Volunteer Coordinator Report:
The on-line Italian Class is extremely successful. On-Line programs continue to include more participants.

The Volunteer Recognition Celebration will take place towards the back of the parking lot. Plans will be forthcoming.

Elevators are being installed at Brownstone; hence, Meal-on-Wheel drivers have difficulty delivering meals. The problem was solved as an entry key was given to the senior center.

St. Patrick's Day meal is sponsored by CareOne and the cooking will be done at the Knights of Columbus. There isn't a cost for those picking up a meal.

- VI Committee Reports:
- a. AAA – The March 8, 2021 meeting was postponed. The AAA is a network advisory board between COA’s.
 - b. GSSSI – The (Greater Springfield Senior Services (GSSSI) provides the grant money to purchase food for the kitchen. Hence, it will be inspecting the kitchen. Food continues to be dropped off for distribution.
- VII Emergency Planning
- a. The next Emergency Planning Meeting will be on March 10, 2021.
- VIII New Business:
- a. Golden Cane Program: The board will decide the process for recognizing the Golden Cane Recipient. For our last recipient a pin was presented, the person was recognized at a Town Meeting and a video of the recognition was given to the recipient. Mary Beth will take the lead on checking with the town clerk for the oldest resident that has lived in EL for at least 3-5 years.
 - b. New Members- The Board consists of ten (10) individuals. There are eight (8) presently on the board; two (2) more are needed. The Town Manager posted these slots and Mary Beth will follow-up to get the response to the posting.
 - c. Nominations – The current chair will contact present board members as to their availability to become the next chair and vice-chair. Jane Desilets offered to become the secretary.
- IX Old Business:
- a. The Bylaws were read verbatim (until ARTICLE VII Officers) by the board chair. Changes were noted and reviewed. The finalization of the Bylaws needs to be finished/approved by the April 2021 Meeting.
 - b. The vaccine clinic report is under the director’s report.
 - c. “A Pleasant View” 3rd episodes continue to be a success. The community likes to be involved.
- X Next Meeting Date:
Next meeting will be Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 8:30AM via ZOOM. The May 2021 meeting will occur on May 11, 2021 at 9:00AM
- XI Adjournment
The Meeting adjourned at 10:03AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Desilets
March 9, 2021