

East Longmeadow Council on Aging (COA)
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 – Board Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order at 8:29AM 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, Julie Dunlop, Sharon Giordano, Melinda Mandeville. Pastor Tim Sherenko. Joseph Barker was excused.

- III. Approval of March 9, 2021 Meeting Minutes:
Approval by Doreen Harrison and seconded by Melinda Mandeville. Vote for acceptance 7 yays ,0 against.

- IV. Director's Report:
The individual responsible for handling the food pantry, in-house and delivery service, resigned. The delivery service is very challenging as some of the food is heavy. There were a couple resumes submitted for the position; a final decision is forthcoming. Each week the senior center receives a delivery from Big Y. The delivery consists mostly produce and meat.

The director and the office manager are doing due-diligence on outsourcing the printing of the monthly newsletter. More ads will be included; however, ~ \$700.00 will be saved per month. The COA's in Longmeadow, Chicopee and Agawam use the printing company. The new procedure will begin in the Fall 2021, if the due-diligence is positive.

- V. Program/Volunteer Coordinator Report:
Planning for the Volunteer Recognition Celebration is progressing. The lunch will have a game host whom will entertain the guests with many different activities.

The senior center along with the Recreation Department will sponsor two (2) drive-in movies. The movies will be held in the parking lot.

The Massachusetts Council on Aging is hosting a walk-a-thon. Those who join need to track the miles/minutes they walk. Once the challenge is completed, the money will go to the sponsored COA of each individual.

A nation-wide Senior Health and Fitness event will be held at the senior center.

Current programs (Tai Chi, line dancing and bingo) are ongoing.

- VI. Committee Reports:
 - a. AAA – The Ombudsman Program is now active. The GSSSI sent a letter of intent to Elder Affairs for supportive housing with in a complex. One

of the objectives is to allow seniors to “Age in Place.” The complex needs to be state funded.

- b. GSSSI – The (Greater Springfield Senior Services (GSSSI) received \$33,000 for a mental health clinician on site. The individual will make visits in the community. In order to receive a visit, a referral would come from a case manager.

VII Emergency Planning:

- a. The March 10, 2021 quarterly meeting was postponed.

VIII New Business:

- a. The COA’s annual meeting will be May 11, 2021 at 9:00 via ZOOM. A vote will take place on the revised by-laws and slate of new officers.
- b. The director indicated the town manager wants to open all buildings at the same time. Elder Affaires is working with the COA’s on the guidelines to open.
- c. 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 with Wi-Fi (~10) for senior residents without computers and safety supplies once the center opens.

IX Old Business:

- a. The Bylaws were read verbatim (after ARTICLE VII Officers) by the board chair. Changes were noted and reviewed.
- b. The senior center hosted a Covid vaccine for twenty (20) individuals on April 12.
- c. “A Pleasant View” 4th episode continues to be a success. The community likes to be involved.
- d. The town Human Resources Department and the Reminder posted the need for new board members. Applications were not submitted.
- e. Golden Cane Program – Residents need to live in a home (not assisted living) in East Longmeadow for five (5) years to qualify for the Golden Cane award.

X Next Meeting Date:

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 9:00AM via ZOOM.

XI Adjournment:

The Meeting adjourned at 9:29AM.

Respectfully submitted by Jane Desilets
April 13, 2021