

MINUTES

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING -

DATE April 9, 2019

Present: Carolyn Bottum, Dan Boynton, Laura Crosby, Ben Horne, Sally Kindleberger, Wendy Kusik, Don Milan, Florence Montgomery, Kathy Ramon, Donna Rizzo, Dot Taylor, Dilla Tingley, Diana Chirita - liaison from Housing Commission please note that no one was absent.

Minutes: The Minutes for the March 12, 2019 meeting were approved.

Calendar: Carolyn reviewed the highlights for the May calendar.

Director's Report:

We now have three **AARP/IRS Tax Aide** volunteers who aided 50 residents. A big increase over last year. Abby and Emily had referred people who had not been filing but needed to in order to receive benefits or the Circuit Breaker tax credit. They also went to the Concord prison to prepare returns for prisoners on work-release who needed to file.

There are now two **Memory Cafes** in session attended by 1-12 elders and their caregivers. We are grateful to The Commons for hosting and providing refreshment and to Right at Home for organizing, both without cost to the COA. This is a great community service.

A number of residents that the COA has been working with have applied and qualified for an **exemption from the CPA local property tax surcharge.**

The money that the COA and the Housing Commission requested from Community Preservation Funds for **Rental Assistance** was approved by Town Meeting. The \$30,000 will help 10-12 vulnerable families find or stay in appropriate housing. Diana Chirita thanked Carolyn profusely for all the excellent research she did to support this valuable program.

Carolyn reported that the **Property Tax Study Committee** is working diligently to look for ways to help residents with tight fiscal situations get help with our increasing tax burden. She, again, has done a lot of research and makes long presentations to the group. We appreciate her efforts and expect carefully thought-out programs to be recommended by the group.

As a COA board we need to applaud and thank Carolyn for the three other important programs that she successfully spearheaded: **Public Health Nurse, Town Social Worker and Mental Health Clinics.** We are so grateful for what you do **Thanks and Happy Birthday.**

Thanks to Dan Boynton, the **First Parish Easter Offertory at two services will support Lincoln's Mental Health Clinics.**

Town Meeting approved an increase of 10 slots for the **Senior Work-Off Program.** We now have 48, which is large for a town of our size. We have received 9 applications and the problem now is to find volunteer jobs for them to fill. Merna Morse who has so successfully managed this program for years is moving and resigning. We need a coordinator to fill these large shoes.

Senior volunteers have been working with the **Magic Garden's** new infant and toddler program located in the stone church. They are enjoying their interaction with the children, especially in the music program.

Great news for **Podiatry Clinic**. Our current podiatrist, Len Ruhl, who has been with us for over 20 years, has gotten permission from his wife to add one more clinic per month. The Friends have offered to fund it and we hope that Pierce House will also choose to contribute. The new session has already been subscribed.

Liaison Reports

Trips: Still space on the May Skywalk and Oklahoma in June. We are fortunate to have such great trips.

Minuteman Senior Services: Wendy reports that MSS Board member will be issued business cards and are urged to be more pro-active in educating folks about MSS and its programs and services. They have a new Board President, Vito de Maura, and a new SHINE Director. She will be putting up posters for their April 9 fundraiser at Rapsallion.

SHINE: Don reported that the Annual Training Program for SHINE volunteers covered the complicated and confining HIPPA requirements.

Housing Commission: Diana reported that **having** secured affordable units to ward off a 40B and worked successfully with the COA on the Rental Housing Program, her Commission is looking to redefine themselves. Anyone with ideas should let her know.

Strawberry Social: Huge thanks to Trish McGean for organizing this for years. Thanks to Laura Crosby and Sally Kindleberger for stepping up *lively* to fill these shoes. Lengthy written instructions have been provided and COA Board members will step up *lively* for hulling and serving and cleaning. This COA Board sponsored activity is great fun and greatly appreciated by the many attendees.

Submitted by Dilla