

**Council on Aging
Board Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2022**

Members Present: Mary Anne Easley, Chair, Judith Perkins, Nancy Swain, Suzi Spring, Robert Kucharavy, and Arlene O'Reilly.

Staff Present: Jerico Mele and Laura Stewart.

Meeting called to order 1:29 pm remotely online pursuant to chapter 20 of the acts of 2021.

1. Announcements from Mary Anne: Suzi Spring has resigned due to other commitments. Alison Forsgren will be leaving as well, she was accepted into the Peace Corps.

2. Reading of the Minutes:

Approval of two sets of minutes for June and August. Bob moved to accept, June seconded. All approved.

3. Cooling Centers: Mary Anne opens discussion to revisit discussions on cooling centers. Nancy has suggested we also consider heating centers. Jerico: as for cooling center, there is a state wide task force formed, focus is on public space and can partner with other resources. Create "at risk individuals" to start, looking for climate controlled large spaces. Home Improvement grant maybe able to include in this effort. Heating Centers- if at risk individuals have challenge of affording heating, we have programs in place to assist. As for a public place where people need to warm up, the Inter-faith council has a program in place for the homeless. Jerico does not foresee this being expanded. However, it is something to consider to dovetail with other programs whereas people could warm up for shorter periods of time. Looking into loan heating programs, working out logistics still.

Comments: Arlene questioned how is this communicated to those that may need this? Ans: Through Generation Safe /Fire Depart., we have a list of people who may need this service. We have a good idea thought vaccines who have mobility challenges, and word of mouth. Further discussions on communications efforts. Judith added addressing possibility of flooding. This also falls under public safety. Further discussions.

Arlene: has the ice rink been considered? The CFN sometimes sends out notifications on free furniture, perhaps a corner could be set up? Further

discussions. Jerico has this on the white board and agreed this maybe under utilized during the summer, it is worth looking further into it.

Mary Anne: Further discussions. Will keep this topic alive to resolve.

4) Elder Expo/Health Fair: Mary Anne: Briefed of ongoing meetings and developments with Health Fair committee that she and Arlene have been attending. Health Fair is October 22, 10am-2pm, probably 2nd floor only of the hospital. For seniors, there will be good attractions, such a speaker and flu shots. Further discussions. Arlene: Should we put something in the take away bag to alert public to watch this meetings for COA? Mary Anne: Yes. Jerico added: Health Care Screenings and addition Flu shoots at the Salt March, dates to be confirmed. Arlene: Excellent content for bags at Health Fair. Continued conversation.

5) Memory Cafe: Jerico: Sherburne Commons is secured to be the 501c nonprofit to receive the grant funding for memory cafe and space to have it. Next steps is to ID the facilitators, further discussions on next development meetings and donation aspects. Mary Anne credits Alison for spearheading this.

6) Government Update: Jerico: Behavioral Health Initiative on COVID new boosters against multiple types of variants. Further discussion on details of when and where vaccines will be available. Announcements will be at the end of September.

Additional projects include sharps disposal system for nonprofits, health department has new staff coming on board.

COVID waste water testing was stopped, but state will be sampling 3x a week and will share that data with us. This will be the only indicator of COVID status on the island. Further discussions on current stats and trends happening. Recommends getting booster.

7) Saltmarsh report: Laura: had 70 people for the BBQ, they have been very busy. Credits the newsletter, we have been getting complimentary tickets which is has been well received. Town was sponsoring the lunches, but this has changed. SM will continue weekly lunches that brings in 20+ people a week. Breakfast is starting up on Thursdays. Ice Cream social was a hit. Further discussions.

8) Elder Services on Cape Cod: Allison sent Mary Anne updates. Q: suggests Sherri Hunt from Elder Services and Mary Anne Ryan from the Cape umbrella as guest speakers to one of our COA meetings. All agreed, further discussions on

types of food for Meals on Wheels and catering to varied cultures in the elder community that are home bound.

9) Grants: Mary Anne stated the home modifications grant was extended for another year. We have a total of 4 (maybe 5) handymen to install varied upgrades for seniors. This program is going really well and it working. Kudos to Laura's newsletter. Further discussions.

Center for Elder Affairs requested Mary Anne to attend their next meeting to share what the COA does. Meeting is 3rd Wednesday of the month at 3:30 in the Salt Marsh. Mary Anne invited other COA members to attend.

Open for any other questions or comments.

Arlene: informed COA that her company will be developing video tutorials designed for seniors to safeguard / education them on cyber crime. Is there a need for this? Mary Anne: Laura had general info from the state, but felt this idea is a great concept. Further discussion.

Mary Anne: There is interest in life alert, suggestions that came from 2 seniors, look into getting grants. Arlene: happy to research it, suggested that the CFN would get behind this. Further discussions.

Bob stated to adjourn the meeting. Arlene seconded it. All in favor.