

Minutes from the Groton Council On Aging
Board Meeting
September 21, 2020

Members Present: Paula Martin, Therese Keoseian, Mihran Keoseian, Jean Sheedy, Dorothy Zale, Judy Palumbo O'Brien, Richard Marten, Peter Cunningham, Helen Sienkiewicz

Staff Present: Kathy Shelp, Kathy Santiago, Stacey Shepard Jones

The meeting was opened at 1:02 p.m., via Zoom

Minutes: Minutes from the July 13 meeting were presented by Helen. They were reviewed and a motion to accept was made by Paula, 2nd by Therese. All unanimous approval accepted.

Director's Report: Kathy gave us an update on reopening procedures. You may visit The Center without making an appointment.

Attendance at the Fitness Center is very low. It possibly will change to folks working out alone.

At the New Year's celebration, we may be able to serve food. Peter suggested getting guidance from the Board of Health. Also, a singer may perform behind plexiglass. Kathy will check with the B.O.H.

Kathy read and explained the new bylaw changes. Therese pointed out some grammatical errors which were corrected.

A motion to amend the bylaws was made by Peter, 2nd by Therese. All unanimous approval was accepted.

Kathy reviewed the Annual Report. She discussed our attendance numbers during the past few years. Goals were also discussed and her ideas on some improvements. She also explained the job description and responsibilities of our Activities Coordinator.

Paula asked if there were any problems with transportation. Stacey said that they are hoping to get another van driver soon.

The Groton Connects initiative has a new sign over Main Street. It is an opportunity to address loneliness. There will be upcoming ideas for us to connect with people around us and to help with anyone's loneliness. Kathy hopes to get some mailings out to residents throughout the coming year.

Therese brought up the question of suicide. Dorothy also spoke of her concerns. Paula mentioned the showing of the film "13" that was shown last week. Kathy asked all of us to speak up about any thoughts and ideas about dealing with this issue. Mihran asked if Martena and the school department be included in this program.

Outreach Reports: There will be copies of the two pamphlets on elder abuse issues for us to review. Stacey also mentioned that

there are interesting videos for people to watch concerning this problem.

Activities/Volunteer Report: The "911" and Drive-In events were both successful. The Meals On Wheels driver amount has increased from 3 to 12 drivers. Therese asked if many people are playing billiards. It has increased.

We are in need of a vice-chair person.

Peter mentioned the Town Meeting on October 3. We have an article concerning an assessment on the Sportsman's Club building. Mihran told us about our meeting a few Sunday's ago with Larayne Black.

Next meeting will be October 19, at 1:00pm

Motion to accept Director's and Staff reports was made by Paula, 2nd by Mihran. All unanimous approval accepted.

Motion to adjourn was made by Mihran, 2nd by Paula. All unanimous approval accepted.

Respectfully Submitted by
Helen Sienkiewicz,
Secretary

Broton Council On Aging
September 21, 2020