

Minutes from the Groton Council on Aging  
Board Meeting  
January 11, 2021

Members Present: Richard Marton, Jean Sheedy,  
Peter Cunningham, Paula Martin, Judith Palumbo  
O'Brien, Mihran Keosseian, Therese Keosseian,  
Dottie Zale, Helen Sienkiewicz

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

Others Present: Paul Funch, Marlana Gilbert

The meeting was opened by Richard at 1:00 p.m.  
He welcomed back Kathy Santiago.

Minutes from the November 16 meeting were  
presented by Helen. They were reviewed  
and a motion to accept was made by  
Peter, 2nd by Therese. All unanimous approval  
accepted with one person abstaining.

Paul Funch from the Trail's Committee spoke  
first about the new trail proposal. It will  
be approximately one mile long and be  
located on Rt. 225 up to the Fairgrounds.  
The design phase is underway now with  
an emphasis on dedication to Marion  
Stoddard's great work. There will be an  
observation deck along the river. Paul  
walked the trail this morning with a  
possible builder from Vermont. Mihran  
expressed his appreciation to Paul  
for his outstanding work.

The Groton Trails Committee will be the applicant of the project. A motion to support the project was made by Peter, 2nd by Mihran. All unanimous approval accepted.

Marlena Gilbert, our School Committee Liaison, spoke of the 'New Year's party that was held in Groton. It was not possible to do contact tracing, so all high school classes have gone remote. The Superintendent has reiterated the need to follow state-wide restrictions on Covid.

The school department will be losing many employees that may not be filled. Trying to keep the schools open in a safe way is crucial. Marlena stated that they are now in damage control.

She spoke about their two projects. One for a new track at the Middle School and a new field at the High School. The cost for the new field will be shared with Dunstable. There is a legitimate concern for the cost of these projects.

A motion for support for both applications was made by Mihran, 2nd by Therese.

All unanimous approval accepted.

Mihran then spoke about the SWOT review meetings. He explained the input of information collected at both meetings. He asked that we review the information and contact him with any thoughts or ideas.

Judith mentioned that she did not see any information on outreach. Peter spoke of the wonderful work of our dedicated van drivers.

Director's Report: Kathy said that The Center will be closed until March 1. It was her suggestion to Mark Haddad to do so. All events and programs had to be realigned. New Year's drive-thru was great fun.

Rivercourt, Women's Club, Fire and Police Departments will be joining us for the bag lunches in the coming weeks.

An anonymous donor gave a very generous gift of \$10,000 to the COA.

Kathy is presently working on the re-accreditation project. She hopes to have it completed by May.

A new on-line registration program is coming soon.

Peter spoke of the Covid vaccine news. Perhaps G/D High will be used as a distribution center. The Superintendent is meeting with the Board of Health.

Outreach Report: Stacey spoke of zooming with Seniors on Mondays. The Emergency Preparedness forms were sent out with the census. There is hope of a link where the information can be accessed 24/7.

A cognitive impairment program to be called "Project Safe & Sound"

will be available for any age group. It will be connected to both the police and fire departments.

Activities/Volunteer Report: Meals On Wheels running smoothly. Kathy has been catching up on work since her absence.

Next Meeting will be held on February 8, at 1pm  
Motion to adjourn was made by Peter,  
2nd by Paula. All unanimous approval  
accepted.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Helen Stenkiewicz,  
Secretary  
Groton Council On Aging  
January 11, 2021