

**Groton Council on
The Groton Center
163 W. Main Street**

Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Council on Aging, Ashley Shaheen

Board Meeting Minutes

Date: November 8, 2021

Location: The Groton Center

Time: 1:01PM meeting called to order by Chair, Jean Sheedy

Attendance: Chair and Facilitator- Jean Sheedy, Secretary- Dottie Zale, Board members: Therese Keoseian, Mihran Keoseian, Helen Sienkiewicz, Judy Palumbo O'Brien, Pascal Miller.

Absent: Paula Martin and Peter Cunningham

Presentation of the minutes for October 18th, 2021. Motion to accept minutes made by Therese, seconded by Helen. Motion carried. Mihran asked if Dottie would like to continue as secretary, she agreed to continue for 1 year.

Director's Updates: Ashley reported to the Board that Friday, November 5, 2021 Stacey Shepard Jones resigned from her position. The Board immediately agreed to send a card to Stacey expressing our heartfelt thanks for her many years of hard work and dedication to the Council on Aging and its

clients. The secretary will write the card on behalf of the Board. Ashley will receive and mail cards from those that would like to send well wishes and thanks to Stacey.

*On October 18th at the Select Board meeting there was strong support for the Community Engagement Specialist position. The part-time assistant position was tabled until FY23. The Community Engagement position was posted on November 5th. At the time of our Board meeting there were nineteen applications. They will be screened then the Outreach Coordinator position will be advertised.

*Special thanks to all those that volunteered at the COVID vaccination clinic. 180 people were vaccinated! Thank you to Ayer Family Pharmacy and the nurses that administered the vaccine.

*Keep in mind-National Volunteer Week is April 17th to 23rd.

*The “Get to Know Your Community Leaders” programs are continuing and well attended.

*Gibbet Hill Holiday Dinner will be held on November 18th. Volunteers will help with the vegetable prep including Board members, police, firedept. and town hall employees. Masks are mandated except while eating and drinking at the dinner.

Community Collaboration with Groton Hill Music Center, Catherine Coleman and on piano Pam Hines for background music at Gibbet Hill.

*Tour of the Groton Hill Center “Orbit”, Graciously an invitation extended to 5 Board members.

*Holiday happenings: Dec. 27th, 1 or 3pm MBE Excerpts of the Nutcracker which will be a family fun event; also, Musical Bingo, and Holiday Harmony Histories.

*December 29th, Pam Garrmone presents “Resilience, Relationships and Relief, Using Positive Psychology to Thrive in Tough Times”.

*100 Cups of Coffee Initiative will continue.

*Reinstating and instituting programs at The Center— ‘scaling up”. July/August ’21 1,009 duplicated; 148 unduplicated; 305 events. Sept/October ’21 1619 duplicated; 236 unduplicated; 349 events. Duplicated increase 60.5%, Unduplicated increase 49.5%, event occurrence increase 14.8%.

**RIY “Reinvest in You” Will relaunch by the spring of 2022.

New look for *Newsletter

*Web site

*Advertising

*Email expansion

Pilot program to expand hours of the center to include evening hours for the fitness center and classes.

The relaunch will include a new catalogue of programming. Marketing to the larger community, advertising in a

professional way the important and essential work of The Center.

Ashley mentioned the Friends of Groton Elders are looking at reinventing their group.

*Outreach related: fuel assistance program runs Nov.1 to April 30.

-SHINE open enrollment until December 15th—Thanks to Bev Johnson for adding additional appointment hours.

-Sand for Seniors Initiative-collaborative effort with the DPW.

-Emergency Preparedness forms will go out with the census forms.

-Yellow Dot program & medical equipment-are a Woman's Club sponsored event.

Old Business: The Board raised the question of how will we provide coverage for Stacey's position? Ashley said everything will go through her. We will need to provide phone calls or drop in visits over the holidays. Stacey worked with the police and fire dept. to provide gift cards to "needy seniors", anyone can donate. This program needs to be picked up again this year.

Dottie inquired about the SWOT program. Mihran explained to the Board that in the spring of 2022 we will revisit the strategic plan particularly Stage II. We will re-look at The Center and see

just how things are going, the Strategic plan for accreditation will be due in December of 2022.

Lastly-Groton Connects continues there is marketing and advertising on our Web site.

Motion to adjourn by Judy, seconded by Helen, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:53PM.

Next Board meeting will be December 13th at 1PM.

Respectfully submitted by Dottie Zale