

Groton Council on Aging

The Groton Center

163 W Main Street

Groton, Massachusetts 01450

Minutes of the COA Board June 13th, 2022

Time: 1:07PM Meeting called to order by Chair Jean Sheedy

Attendance: Chair Jean Sheedy, Secretary Dorothy Zale, Board Members: Peter Cunningham, Pascal Miller, Paula Martin, Therese Keoseian, Mihran Keoseian, Judy Palumbo O'Brien, Helen Sienkiewicz.

Director Ashley Shaheen, Engagement Specialist Lauren Marcello.

Guests: Steve Lieman and Bridget Reiss

Minutes from May 23rd accepted as corrected.

Ashley introduced Steve and Bridget to the Board. They updated the Board on the improved Center Web site that they have developed. The updated site was opened after the Center reopened and now has 700 visits a month! The previous Web site was good but stark and difficult to find information on. Ashley requested they update the site and make it more user friendly. A quick demonstration proved that they were very successful.

Director's Report: Programming continues to be the main priority. An update to remind everyone that the Center was up and running was sent. An Appreciation Kickoff Event will be held on June 16th at the Center.

The July/August Newsletter was sent to the printers. The Newsletter will contain a collage of photos. Highlights: Welcome for Nickole Boardman, Hawaiian Luau, Drive-In Movie. Extended hours continue.

Staff Update: Outreach/Van Dispatch Nickole Boardman will start on June 22nd. Don McKinney was appointed per diem driver June 6th. Bob Hamilton has filled out the form for per diem driver. Sara Raveret continues to provide additional support. Interviews for the 15hour position will begin on June 14th. Transportation: Eddie Wenzell is

back and continues to oversee the transportation program. We now have a loaner Van from LRTA, hopefully to get our new Van in July.

Volunteerism: MCOA to film some of our volunteers. The film will be used to recruit volunteers and showcase the importance and value of volunteerism. The NCOA Accreditation process has been extended to 12/31/22.

Outreach: Ashley has been busy handling at risk residents and social service requests. She has been working with Ashley Kelly, State Case Nurse from Aging Services, to advocate for those in need. Paula brought up her concerns regarding gas and oil prices for many seniors. Mihran, Ashley and Karen Toomey are meeting to discuss this problem. FOGE has provided 10 gas cards each month and is looking into oil assistance. Pascal was questioning whether Loaves and Fishes delivery for those in Groton that need assistance would be possible.

Engagement Specialist Report: Lauren reported that the Cruise Trip is full! People have been really enjoying the programs. 10 students from Groton Dunstable High School have filled out forms to volunteer at the Center over the summer. Monthly there are about 550 hours logged in by volunteers. The Garden is coming along beautifully, with many positive comments about the redesign.

Updates from Mihran: Mark, Don and Mihran met with parties from DPA and EPA. They reported that the Federal Government has agreed to pay for the remediation of the lead in/on the Sportsman's Club land as well as the neighbor's land. Tree removal will be done as well as the building being removed. The work will not disrupt the activities of the Center. Lorayne Black toured the grounds and volunteered to do the landscape design. FOGE MAY try to take on the architect fees. A letter of intent will be sent to the Groton Community Preservation Committee. The project will be presented at Town Meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be held July 18,2022

Meeting adjourned at 2:40PM

Respectfully Submitted by Dorothy Zale