

LAURIE CASOLARI, Chairperson  
Drewey Darnell, Vice-Chairperson  
Linda Young, Secretary

LESLIE HENNESSEY, Director

## COUNCIL ON AGING January 13, 2020 Minutes

Present: Laura Casolari, Chair, Mary Boulais, Karen Buscemi, Liane Pueschel, Drewey Darnell, Rita Starzyk, Linda Young  
Carol Constant, excused  
Absent: Allyson Garcia  
Resigned: Janet Veitch, Heather Clark  
Guests: Bruce Forcier, Kim Prough

Roll Call was taken

**Open Forum** - Fence is going up around the old building very soon and abatement will happen end of February. Contract was awarded to the lowest bidder in mid December and they need to get all of the subcontractors in place which has been harder because of the holidays. Contractor still expects to have the building finished on time.

**Minutes** of December meeting were unanimously approved.

### **New Business:**

**Project Update:** Leslie is having weekly preconstruction meetings and is meeting with both the contractor and subcontractors. Groundbreaking will be towards the end of March.

**Resignations:** Both Janet Veitch and Heather Clark have resigned from the Council. Janet due to other new commitments she has taken on and Heather due to a potential conflict of interest.

### **Old Business:**

Leslie met with the COA Master Plan subcommittee and they are going to continue having meetings as opinions and ideas expressed were great and there are a lot of people who are interested in moving the COA forward. While the subcommittee is made up of some COA Directors, Leslie thinks we could invite others and the general public from time to time to weigh in and offer other suggestions. Programming ideas would be great.

Kathy and Leslie will be doing a survey very soon.

A Women's Topic Group is hoping to meet soon. Men's Breakfast and other programs planned.

Wellness Project Update: Karen and Liane have met with both the Holyoke and Chicopee COA's. Holyoke has a 35 hr week wellness nurse. They got a tour of their new Senior Center which has a walk-in shower that people can use. Karen and Liane were very impressed. Also they saw an auxiliary kitchen for cooking classes. The RN's role is very different than other COA's. She is out of her office most of the time which is good and does outreach at 9 senior center housing units. They have one full time and one 1/2 time RN. Holyoke also has two full time social workers. Ludlow has an extensive nursing care piece and Longmeadow has a COA assigned nurse. South Hadley has a community nurse who comes by once a month from 12-2. While Leslie and the nurse are trying to increase this, there is a lack of privacy for her confidential files and no refrigerator for her medications.

The Town budget is being formed now and after Leslie gets the reports from Karen and Liane she will get together with them to create a plan.

Friends of the Elderly Update:

They will work with Leslie to create specialty lunches this year. Loomis has agreed to help bring a lunch. The Friends will charge \$5 and if the luncheon costs more, they will pick up the tab. Izra Bleu at the High School and HCC are also being approached. Olde Towne Caterers were also suggested. March 19th will be the luncheon here. Kim will check with MHC to see if they can help as well.

Peoples Bank has given \$150,000 for the new Senior Center. Peoples President was here for the holiday luncheon which wasn't the usual fare.

Feb. 14th Dan Kane and Freddie Marion will be here and Beers and Story will provide a cake and their photo montage.

April 1 from 5-6:30 will be a program on the Federal Census with Soup and Popovers.

A Multi-generational Dance is being considered to help build community.

The Friends Membership Drive is also on and the Directors were encouraged to join.

**Director's Report**

Discussions have taken place and St. Theresa's custodian is going to do all of the work so there are not two people trying to decide who is doing what.

Programming Goals: Kerry is putting the finishing touches on this.

Staffing: With Brenda, Volunteer Coordinator, out until the end of January other staff are having to fill in.

Western New England University is partnering with the COA to do a homebound program. Their Director of O.T. Doctoral Program and his assistant is going into our homebound homes and find out what the person can be doing for themselves rather than having the client's aide doing everything.

It will be in-house for the first three weeks and then the last three weeks they will do excursions to get the clients out. About 15 people will be participating and the program is free. The graduate students will also work with our seniors on the census.

Wellness Scholarship is going forward.

Census 2020 is being worked on by our Town Clerk but she also has to work on our Town's March 3 elections which is taking precedent. The COA's picnic will be in June this year so we can also work on the census at that time. Grandchildren are being encouraged to help grandparents on their computers with this census.

Leslie thanked Karen and Liane for their help with the Wellness issues.

Leslie asked us what would bring us to the Senior Center?

**Next meeting** will be February 10 at 4:30. Linda indicated she will not be there so someone else will need to take the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Young