

**TOPSFIELD COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**February 14, 2023 4:00 PM**

**TOPSFIELD TOWN HALL, 8 WEST COMMON STREET**

**PRESENT:** Chair Penny Rogers, Vice Chair Lynne Bermudez and members Kim Love, Bill Quinn Jr., George Berube, Kendra Berube, Joan Chiffer, Elaine Crippen, Steve Walsh and Rusty Brady.

**OTHERS:** COA Director Kathleen Barbarisi

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**I. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER MINUTES:**

Joan Chiffer made a motion to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023. It was seconded by Rusty Brady and the motion carried 10-0.

**II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

- "Fireside Poetry" has been incredible! Jack Armitage has been bringing a packet of poems to read aloud and also others have been sharing. A great group of about 20 people have been attending.
- "Open Art Studio" on the 1st and 3rd Fridays has been great! People can work on projects like artwork, pastels, watercolor and it is open to all.
- The House of the Seven Gables free tour trip for Topsfield residents will be on February 22nd.
- COA Director, Kathleen Barbarisi will be working on the FY22 Annual Report for the State of MA and the Town of Topsfield.
- Neighborhood nursery students dropped off cards that were given to all the COA seniors at the Valentine's Day lunch.
- There were 30 people that attended the Valentine's Day lunch.
- "Upside to Downsizing" had about 50 attendees. It is a group with about 11 presenters that talk for about 5 minutes each regarding topics such as, downsizing, decluttering, etc. Feedback has been great along with requests for more classes similar to this class. The classes are open as

well to the Tri-Town community to participate. The COA is hoping to send the recording of the class to Cable TV and photos were also taken. The “declutter” talk section was a very popular and constant booth, where a discussion such as “how to declutter a junk drawer” took place.

- The “Circuit Breaker Tax Credit class” will take place on March 7th at 9:30am.
- The new program, “Mr. Fix It” with Roy the electrician has been going great and the feedback has been so positive! People are using this great opportunity to drop off their mini electrical items that need fixing.

### **III. REPORTS:**

#### **1. FRIENDS LIAISON:**

According to COA Liaison Elaine Crippen:

- Lisa O'Brien has been setting up a website for the FRIENDS and will have a link offering people a new way to donate through Venmo.
- In need of more birthday cards that can be sent out. About 70-80 birthday cards are sent out each month!

#### **2. COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (Dementia-Friendly Team, Intergenerational, Craft Connections):**

According to Dementia Friendly Liaison Joan Chiffer:

- No update from Joan.

Intergenerational Liaison Hannah Adelman-Menzer

- No update

Craft Connections Liaison Kendra Berube:

- Card making has been going great and there was a cutoff last time, which was at 15 attendees and there was a waitlist.

#### **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

Emerson Homes 40B:

- Chair Penny Rogers led a discussion on the letter that had been drafted by the COA Director summarizing the financial impact that the senior development will have on the COA. . Bill Quinn Jr. made a motion to approve the Emerson Homes letter as discussed and amended. It was seconded by Elaine Crippen and the motion carried 9-0-1. This letter will be sent to the Select Board with a copy to the Finance Committee and the ZBA.
- Vice-Chair Bermudez provided a brief update on the status of the project including that a walk of the property had been conducted by the ZBA. The Caleb Group staked the property in anticipation of the walk-through to indicate where the apartment complex will be situated on the property. If the special permit is approved by the ZBA in 2023, construction will likely not start until early 2025.
- A citizen petition has been placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to assess the interest of residents to purchase Emerson Fields if for some reason the current project does not move forward. It is a non-binding sense of the town. .

Steve Walsh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by George Berube and the motion carried 10-0 at 4:58 p.m.

**Next Meeting will be April 11, 2023.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Love

Recording Secretary/Clerk

#### **DOCUMENTS:**

- Agenda
- Draft Meeting Minutes – February 14, 2023