

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

**January 12, 2021, 4:00 PM**

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

### **VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING**

**PRESENT:** Penny Rogers, Charlotte O'Toole, Kimberly Love, Elaine Crippen, Joan Chiffer, Hannah Adelman-Menzer, George Berube, Kendra Berube, Lynne Bermudez, Florence Brady, Stephen Walsh, Acting Officer Liaison

**OTHERS:** Kevin Harutunian Town Administrator, Beth Willis, Town Clerk, Kathleen Barbarisi, new COA Director

At the start of the COA Board meeting, the Chair read the following statement: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Topsfield COA Board is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by following this meeting Agenda or contacting the Topsfield Town Clerk.

**ROLL CALL VOTE ON APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER BOARD MEETING MINUTES:** Elaine Crippen made motion to approve December Minutes, motion seconded by Hannah Adelman-Menzer. 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, Penny Rogers, Aye, Kimberly Love, Aye, Elaine Crippen, Aye, Hannah Adelman-Menzer, Aye, George Berube, Aye, Kendra Berube, Aye, Lynne Bermudez, Aye, Stephen Walsh, Aye, Joan Chiffer, Aye, Charlotte O'Toole, Aye, Florence Brady, Aye.

### **II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

-Report given by Stephen Walsh (Note: Stephen is a board volunteer for the COA office, his designation is Acting Office Liaison)

- It has been a relatively quiet month due to no virtual programming over the holidays. Before the holidays, there was the Holiday Party which included "goodie" bags, Vinny's movie clips, the Chief of Police Neil Hovey speaking, Chrsya's tour of Christmas traditions in other countries, Eric Roth's sing-a-long and Hannah's violin playing, visit with Santa, and Town Administrator Harutunian's holiday greetings to the over 50 people in attendance. Thanks to Lynne Bermudez for being the MC of the party. All was well received
- Meals on Wheels schedule maintained.
- Beth Wideberg was in the office during this time.

### **III. REPORTS:**

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

According to COA Liaison Elaine Crippen: No report at this time. Next meeting to be held Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **2. DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY TEAM:**

According to DFT Chairperson Joan Chiffer:

DFT's Pen Pal Program between students at the Ipswich Audubon Preschool and members of our Meals on Wheels program is going well. Likewise, DFT's Senior Story Time between COA seniors and third-graders at Steward School is also nicely progressing.

## **3. INTERGENERATIONAL:**

According to IG Liaison Hannah Adelman-Menzer:

Garlic labels from the garden are missing from the intergenerational garden. Lynne Bermudez recommended taking a picture of the labels, as planted, so we can refer back to it.

Planning on upcoming art ventures and St Patrick's Day sing along.

Hannah would also like to get COA Director Barbarisi connected to Brownies, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Mrs. Murphy's 4<sup>th</sup> grade class.

## **4. TRIAD LIAISONS:**

According to TRIAD Liaison George Berube and Kendra Berube:

They have 50 contact cards ready to go to Town Hall. They have not gone out yet, but hope to get them out soon. Penny Rogers mentioned sending to Meals on Wheels people first,

## **IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

-Town Administrator Harutunian spoke about the COA Director's selection. He introduced Kathleen Barbarisi. She has years of experience in the field of senior living services, programming and administrative management. When she starts in that position January 25<sup>th</sup>, she wants to see what is working and what is not working for the seniors. (For more information on Ms. Barbarisi, there is a press release on the Town of Topsfield website.)

## **V. NEW BUSINESS:**

-Town Administrator Harutunian discussed COVID-19 vaccination. First responders from Topsfield, Boxford, Middleton, Hamilton and Wenham received vaccine inoculations on January 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> at Topsfield Fair. On Monday, 230 injections were given and on Tuesday, 70 injections were given. Kudos to our Topsfield Health Agent, Wendy Hansbury for this undertaking. There was a round of applause and euphoria at the "End of the Tunnel" special day! We will be taking direction from the state re: availability of vaccine distribution. The town will be responsible for providing access to the vaccine. We will be host for Boxford, Hamilton and Wenham, as well as Topsfield. It will be available to the public in April. There will be three phases of eligibility. Information available on Mass.Gov. Kendra Berube stated that homework is being done re: mobile options for those who are homebound.

## **VI. OTHER:**

- Kim Love said that some high school students went to the MASCO Health Care Center and picked up trash and bushes, around the center. Shoveling was not permitted, due to outside contract providing that service. Service Program for Seniors will begin the end of January. Shawls were handed out again to seniors. They were beautifully received. There is another round of scarves being made.

-Roll Call Vote taken to adjourn meeting. Motion made by Joan Chiffer to adjourn meeting and seconded by Kim Love at 5:00 P.M. 11 Ayes, 0 Nays, Penny Rogers, Aye, Kimberly Love, Aye, Elaine Crippen, Aye, Joan Chiffer, Aye, Hannah Adelman-Menzer, Aye, George Berube, Aye, Kendra Berube, Aye, Lynne Bermudez, Aye, Stephen Walsh, Aye, Charlotte O'Toole, Aye, Florence Brady, Aye.

-Next Meeting will be February 9, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Florence Brady, Recording Secretary/Clerk