

TOPSFIELD COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
April 13, 2021, 4:00 PM
TOPSFIELD TOWN HALL, 8 WEST COMMON STREET

VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING

PRESENT: Chair Penny Rogers, Vice Chair Lynne Bermudez and members Elaine Crippen, Hannah Adelman-Menzer, Stephen Walsh, George Berube, Kendra Berube, Florence Brady, and Associate Member Charlotte O'Toole. COA Director Kathleen Barbarisi, Town Clerk Beth Willis, and visitors Jolene Guerra and Marjorie Hurley were also in attendance.

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.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Elaine Crippen made motion to approve the minutes of March 9, 2021. It was seconded by Joan Chiffer and the motion carried 10-0.

Penny Rogers – Aye
Lynne Bermudez, Aye
Elaine Crippen - Aye
Hannah Adelman-Menzer - Aye
Kim Love - Aye
Joan Chiffer - Aye
Stephen Walsh – Aye
George Berube – Aye
Kendra Berube - Aye
Florence Brady – Aye

II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Meals on Wheels now delivering five days a week through May and then will return to four days a week for the summer hours.
- Another activity packet for seniors was prepared by the Caputo family.
- Travelling Chef "Grab and Go" delivered 26-29 meals to seniors. Need a few volunteers to help pass out the meals, once a month, through September.
- Continuing Senior Care Software Training.
- Joined in Zoom meeting with Kathleen Bowler, Director of Member Services at Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA), to discuss overview of requirements for grants.

- Ipswich COA has a Low Vision Support Group. Transportation provided for Topsfield seniors to attend. If a nice day, session will be conducted outside in a tent.
- AARP Tax Aide Clinic will be held, Friday, April 9th at 5 P.M.
- Virtual Memorial Day program with historian Dexter Bishop is in place for May 26th. Actual Memorial Day is May 30th.
- Virtual tours with Chrysa will be scaled down to two times a month.
- Historian John Horrigan will be providing virtual program, Subject: Titanic. Hopefully we can do a program every other week in May and June. We will be pay with formula grant when received.
- Broadway singer, James Michael, baritone, will be performing May 11th at 1 P.M. It will be in a tent outside, depending on the weather. The tent will fit 25 people. Due to COVID, if there are over 50 people attending, the Board of Health will be notified. If the additional people are not under the tent, it should be fine. Exercise programs that week will continue to be done virtually.
- Paperwork for Formula Grant, the AARP Grant and Title III Grant (transportation grant) completed.
- April 19th will begin the next phase of COVID vaccinations for ages 16 and up. 95% of Topsfield seniors have been vaccinated.
- Spoke with Bill Hodges, MASCO School Committee and Randy O'Keefe, MASCO Music Department Director re: virtual concert before the end of the school year.
- Bill Hodges will be doing a program on May 5th at 10:00 AM., Coffee & Conversation: Connecting with MASCO. This will give everyone a chance to ask questions before the Town Meeting on May 8th.
- Concert on the Common, 3rd Saturday in August.

III. REPORTS:

1. FRIENDS LIAISON:

According to COA Liaison Elaine Crippen:

-Friends need new recording secretary to write thank you cards for donations. Nancy Beirne will take it on for now.

-Membership drive will begin soon. Chris Roman will ask Gretchen Marks if she could get labels for us. It was suggested, if we could include membership drive in newsletter.

2. DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY TEAM:

According to DFT Joan Chiffer:

Our Topsfield "Awesome Elders" Story Time is currently in a conundrum. Now that the students are back in school, we have an upended schedule going forward, as well as the students needing to have access to computers. This has caused some issues that need to be worked out.

Pen Pal was on life support, with only one senior actually responding to the kids letters. Joan & Kathleen brainstormed and came up with purchasing journals and passing them back and forth between the seniors and the preschool kids. Kathleen purchased the journals and recruited more seniors to the program. The hope is that the journals will provide better cohesiveness between the six seniors and the six students.

Joan recommended that the COA create an umbrella program called Community Connections. The Dementia Friendly Topsfield Taskforce and the Intergenerational Committee would both be part of the new Community Connections program. This welcoming title would open up boundless new avenues for connection with groups around town. In addition, COA members may be more inclined to sign up for programs under the Community Connections title rather than the Dementia Friendly Topsfield title.

3. INTERGENERATIONAL:

According to IG Liaison Hannah Adelman-Menzer:

Nothing to report at this time.

4. TRIAD LIAISONS:

According to TRIAD Liaison George Berube and Kendra Berube:

Nothing to report.

TRIAD may not come back. All that was needed to be done has been accomplished and working on a regular basis. It may be best for George and Kendra to become involved in other COA activities.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

-Town Hall Update- The end of May and June, the Town Hall will be open Monday until 5 P.M.

-COA van update. Since the van will not be able to use the garage on School Street, the placement of the van will need to be determined. It is not good for the van to be out of door in winter, as well as summer. Kathleen is going to look into this, as well as the condition of the van itself.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

-Potential new board member – Margorie Hurley relocated to Topsfield six years ago from a Philly suburb. Before retirement, Marjorie was a clinical pharmacist. Last June she retired. At this time in her life, she wants to give back to her community.

VI. OTHER:

-Tax Work Off Program – Board of Health will continue to keep a list of names and phone numbers.
(Unofficial, not official yet)

-Bus available for doctor appointments and grocery shopping. **(Unofficial, not official yet)**

-After Memorial Day, Town Hall will be closed on Friday and will be open on Mondays until 8 P.M.
(Unofficial, not official yet)

-Official ribbon cutting for electric vehicle charger stations to be held at the end of April.

-For Autism Month, the Town Hall has placed blue lights on the outside of the town hall and they are lighted during the evening hours.

Motion made by Steve Walsh to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Kendra Berube and carried 10-0 at 4:59 P.M.

Penny Rogers – Aye
Lynne Bermudez, Aye
Elaine Crippen - Aye
Hannah Adelman-Menzer - Aye
Kim Love - Aye
Joan Chiffer - Aye
Stephen Walsh – Aye
George Berube – Aye
Kendra Berube - Aye
Florence Brady – Aye

-Next Meeting will be May 11, 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Florence Brady, Recording Secretary/Clerk