

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

PRESENT: Chair Penny Rogers, Vice Chair Lynne Bermudez and members Elaine Crippen, Hannah Adelman-Menzer, Kim Love, George Berube, Stephen Walsh. Florence Brady, Joan Chiffer, COA Director Kathleen Barbarisi, Visitor Bill Quinn, Jr. was also in attendance.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Elaine Crippen made motion to approve the minutes of June 8, 2021. It was seconded by Hannah Adelman-Menzer and the motion carried 9-0.

II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Town Hall open at 85% capacity.
- Grab and Go on the first week had about 15, second was 26, and third week 15.
- The trip to Tower Gardens, Boylston, MA on July 13th was great.
- Good feedback on Ipswich trips. Bus came to Topsfield for pickup
- A lot of outreach has kept us busy with financial and mental health issues.
- Beth Wideberg will be on vacation next week.
- Kathleen is in discussion with Friends regarding cookout. Need to have some issues resolved.
- Ice cream meeting next week to discuss how selling of ice cream will be handled at the cookout and tomato festival. Will ice cream trucks be allowed, can library keep ice cream in library and sell.

III. REPORTS:

1. FRIENDS LIAISON:

According to COA Liaison Elaine Crippen:

-No meetings held the months of June and July

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

According to Dementia Friendly Liaison Joan Chiffer:

-The DFT Pen Pal Program and the DFT Awesome Elders Story Time Program are on hiatus for the summer. However, we did have one 3rd grader from the Awesome Elders Story Time Program ask if he

could be pen pals with his awesome elder over the summer. The awesome elder agreed and the two are corresponding.

According to Intergenerational Liaison Hannah Adelman-Menzer:

-IG Garden cleanup will take place this Thursday from 10-11 A.M. The plants and flowers are overgrown and wild. Janet Wilkins and Ellen Schaan will be helping out. If anyone is interested and available to help on this Thursday, July 15th, it would be most appreciated.

-Kathleen and Hannah will be responsible for the summer cleanup.

Craft Connections Liaison Kendra Berube:

-The card workshop in IG week had a lot of new people. We will be doing a workshop in Ipswich next week.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

-Board Membership – Elaine Crippen, Kim Love, and Florence Brady renewed their 3-year COA membership and Stephen Walsh for a 2-year membership.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

-Vote taken on COA Board officers. Penny Rogers, Chair, Lynne Bermudez, Vice Chair, Florence Brady, Recording Secretary for a term of one year. Motion made by Elaine Crippen to approve board officers. It was seconded by Joan Chiffer. It was unanimous, 9 ayes 0 nays.

VI. OTHER:

-George and Kendra Berube donated a Mahjong table and set for “Game” Day, which will be starting shortly.

-There will be a memorial service for Ed Roman August 28th at Gould Barn from 2-4 P.M. Chris Roman would like to donate a bench to the town in Ed’s name. Kathleen will discuss with Kevin Harutunian, Town Administrator.

-State Representative Brad Hill stopped by to see Kathleen and mentioned that he is receiving a lot of requests for assistance for shelter and food, as well as help from domestic violence, due to COVID. He offered assistance, if able, to Kathleen, for Topsfield seniors.

-Bill Quinn, Jr. a former member of the COA Board attended. He left to become Vice Chair of the Friends of the Topsfield Hall Committee, a private corporation to establish fund raising for the work on the town hall. The 12-member team was successful and raised six figures to help support the effort. Bill resigned from this committee and would like to rejoin the COA board.

Discussion was held on the appointment of Bill Quinn to the COA board. This item of discussion was unforeseen at the time the agenda was posted. A preliminary vote was taken to appoint Bill Quinn Jr. for a 3-year term to expire June 30, 2024 pending approval by the Topsfield Select Board. Motion made by Joan Chiffer and seconded by Elaine Crippen. Vote was unanimous, 8 ayes 0 nays. A final vote will be taken at the September COA Board meeting.

Motion made by Joan Chiffer to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Elaine Crippen and carried 9 ayes 0 nays at 4:54 P.M.

-Next Meeting will be September 14, 2021. No meeting in August.

Respectfully submitted by Florence Brady, Recording Secretary/Clerk

DOCUMENTS

Board approved July 13, 2021 minutes on September 14 after the following amendments were made.

Attendance – Stephen Walsh was not listed, but was in attendance. Added name to attendance list and included him on the voting count. Voting numbers changed from 8 ayes to 9 ayes.

Director's Report – Removed Statement : "Due to the weather, our July 13th tour and picnic at Rest-Stop Ranch had only two people attend." The tour was cancelled due to rain.