

TOPSFIELD COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
January 11, 2022, 4:00 PM
TOPSFIELD TOWN HALL, 8 WEST COMMON STREET

PRESENT: Chair Penny Rogers, Lynne Bermudez (Vice Chair), and members Elaine Crippen, Hannah Adelman-Menzer, George Berube, Kendra Berube, Stephen Walsh. and Florence Brady

Others: COA Director Kathleen Barbarisi and Charlotte O'Toole (Associate Member)

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Elaine Crippen made motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021. It was seconded by Hannah Adelman-Menzer and the motion carried 8-0.

II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- New Year's Eve gathering was quite successful with 31 people, even though social distancing was required. There was no food or drink. Clyde Wheatley, jazz saxophonist, provided entertainment at the celebration.
- COVID-19 – Speak to Wendy Hansbury regarding upcoming tests.
- AARP Tax Program starting January 15th. Call the COA to sign-up and receive necessary packet. Appointments will be held at the library.
- There will be a first time training for the State Annual Report.
- Town Report is due by March 4th. The EEOA state report was due by January 27th.
- Senior/Veterans Tax Work Off Program has 1-3 openings.
- Town Hall is still enforcing masks.
- Grab and Go will be starting a new program with Root.
- Upgrade to exercise equipment will be available to provide better circulation for seniors.
- Dance Out Dementia had 20 people in attendance, either hybrid or virtually.
- Yesterday's painting class provided adequate table/chair spacing for attendees. The instructor walked around to assist. There were few in person COA individuals.
- Fuel assistance is available as of yesterday.

III. REPORTS:

1. FRIENDS LIAISON:

According to COA Liaison Elaine Crippen:

-There were 20 people in attendance at the Boxwood Tree Class at Trinity Church. Friends donated \$200 to help out the Garden Club.

-Mary Ann is still accepting birthday cards to send out to Topsfield seniors.

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

According to Dementia Friendly Liaison Joan Chiffer:

-No report – Joan was not in attendance.

According to Intergenerational Liaison Hannah Adelman-Menzer:

- Feb 4th Creative Coop postponed. Placing multi-generational Group in one room, due to COVID, would not be a good idea. It will be revisited in March.

Craft Connections Liaison Kendra Berube:

-There were 9 people in attendance at the card workshop last week. .

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

-COA Transportation Update. Drivers need to know what assistance they can provide to individuals that are riding the bus. Kathleen will work with Kevin Harutunian, Town Administrator, make changes in policy and give "red lined" copy to COA members. Also, re: trips, Kevin thought that it was fine for COA to have weekend trips. Weekday trips sometimes return after town hall is closed. Friday town hall open 8-12 and trips on Fridays may return after noon.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

-None at this time.

VI. OTHER:

-Money is available for picnic benches outside of town hall.

-Annette Cohen, former COA Board Member, passed away December 30th. Annette not only supported COA, but contribute her time in making costumes for the COA float for the Topsfield Fair's Bicentennial Parade.

Motion made by Elaine Crippen to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Hannah Adelman-Menzer and carried 8 ayes 0 nays at 4:43 P.M.

-Next Meeting will be February 8, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Florence Brady, Acting Recording Secretary/Clerk

DOCUMENTS

Draft minutes for January 11, 2022