

DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2020

Present: Chairman Leanne Jasset, Marie-Louise Kehoe, Sherri Hannigan, Geri Pacheco, Diane Barry-Preston, Russ Poole, Maureen Teti, Sandra Tocman, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller, COA Director Sheila Pransky

Absent: Parks and Recreation Representative Jonathan Briggs, Police Chief Michael D'Entremont

Meeting called to order by Chairman Leanne Jasset at 5:13 PM. Because this was a remote virtual meeting, all votes were by roll call.

The vote to accept the minutes from the February, May, and June meetings will be taken next month. The Board did not meet in March or April due to the pandemic.

Director's Report:

- We have officially moved into the Ames Building. However, because no occupancy permit has been issued, we are still working remotely.
- We are looking to resume some level of transportation with our vehicles, offering rides for 1 or 2 seniors at a time for essential trips and perhaps a shuttle a few days a week for shopping.
- We have signed the grant contract from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, as long as the pandemic continues, to provide taxi rides for seniors, disabled adults, and veterans through December 20, 2020.
- The 4th of July Patriotic Sing-a-Long was very successful.
- As part of our ongoing effort to reach seniors, we have created a postcard to be mailed to all seniors who have in some way connected with us in the past year.
- We have talked about resuming some outdoor events for small groups and some drive-by events such as the barbecue by the Sheriff's Department.

Motion made by Marie-Louise Kehoe to accept the Director's Report, seconded by Russ. So voted.

HESSCO: Anne Heller

- Newly elected President Sandra Tocman presided over her first HESSCO Board Meeting.
- Staff training for the month compared services before the pandemic and current services. It was noted there are fewer referrals now. Previous service requests included information and referrals, home care related questions, and protective services. Previously, most requests were by telephone or in person. Now most are done online.
- Most home visits are now being done remotely unless they meet specific guidelines that have been developed.
- The staff also had training on financial exploitation of seniors, suicide prevention, and the dynamics of racism.

- HESSCO received \$75,000 from the Meals on Wheels Association of America and \$20,000 from MetroWest to be used for food insecurity in Dedham and other surrounding towns in the area.
- There is a program providing assistance for dislocated workers in Dedham and Norwood.

Senior Center Update:

- There are items on the punch list, some cosmetic and others for safety reasons, that must be completed before the occupancy permit will be issued.

Livable Dedham:

- Diane is working on a social media campaign featuring Seniors Making a Difference. She took pictures of Food Pantry volunteers and another at the Farmers Market. She will post these pictures and others with a short paragraph for each.
- Using the Beth Israel Grant, Livable Dedham and the Parks and Recreation Department are moving ahead with the adult park at Gonzalez Field. The equipment is very expensive and will involve additional fundraising to complete the project.

Old/New Business:

- Russ said there was a lengthy discussion at the Fin Com meeting to fund a social worker position on the Police Department. Currently, police report to various town agencies. Chief D'Entremont believes referrals will be made more quickly with a social worker.

Public Discussion: None

Motion made by Diane, to adjourn. Seconded by Russ. So voted. (Geri Pacheco was disconnected from the meeting and unable to vote.)

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 PM