

DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
Meeting Minutes
January 21, 2021

Present: Chairman Leanne Jasset, Marie-Louise Kehoe, Sherri Hannigan, Geri Pacheco, Diane Barry-Preston, Maureen Teti, Sandra Tocman, Parks and Recreation Representative Charles (Chuck) Dello Iacono, Police Chief Michael D'Entremont, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller, COA Director Sheila Pransky. (All present)

Meeting called to order by Chairman Leanne Jasset at 5:03 PM. All votes were by roll call because this was a remote meeting on Zoom,

Public Discussion: In preparation for the Master Plan 2030, guests Michelle Tinger, Community Planning & Engagement Specialist and Jessica Porter from the Planning Board presented the topics for the second Designing Dedham Forum. They encouraged Board members to attend the Zoom meeting and once again asked we publicize the meeting. Housing and public health are of particular interest to the Council on Aging. Several members discussed housing and zoning especially as it affects certain areas of Dedham. Both topics will be discussed during the forum.

Motion made by Geri, seconded by Sherri, to accept the November minutes. So voted. Chief D'Entremont voted present. (There was no December meeting.)

Director's Report:

- We continue to create and schedule programs for seniors, overseeing the in-person fitness classes at the Dolan Center, and communicating with our community members.
- Thank you to Sarah MacDonald and a group of volunteers, including Diane Barry-Preston, for delivering holiday meals.
- We were pleased to have been awarded a \$2,500 grant from Beth Israel Lahey Needham to support our technology program.
- We are awaiting information on the Covid-19 vaccine. We hope to receive some news as the state moves into Phase 2. Leanne, speaking as Chairman of the Board of Health, said the Health Department is working diligently so that Dedham will be able to hit the ground running once the town receives the vaccine. They will be ready.

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

HESSCO: Anne Heller

- The monthly meeting was a review of the audit. So far HESSCO is in good financial condition. However, the financial future is unknown.

Livable Dedham: Diane Barry-Preston

- We hope to have the adult recreation area at Gonzalez Field up and running in April. We are waiting for the Conservation Commission's assessment. Chuck said there is a park in Hyde Park for those who wish to see a similar area.
- The Phone Pal program has some volunteers. Sheila said with the technology program being set up, this may be the same group of people. She will continue to seek volunteers.
- We are hopeful accessory dwellings will be a part of the spring Town Meeting.

Senior Center Update:

- We are in good shape as work on the punch list continues.
- The budget has been turned in to the town. Because of the pandemic, we were asked to level fund our requests.

Old/New Business

- Prior to voting for the COA Representative to the Human Rights Commission, Chuck withdrew his name as a candidate. His work with the Parks and Recreation Department and other commitments would limit the amount of time he would be able to give to the commission.
- Chuck made the motion to nominate Diane Barry-Preston to serve as the COA Representative to the Human Rights Commission, seconded by Marie-Louise Kehoe. So voted.
- Maureen asked if some time in the future, the COA would offer a class on how to effectively use the Library website. Sheila was interested in the idea and will follow up.
- Myrna Weiner joined the meeting and asked if the town had received any vaccine. Leanne said because we have no idea when doses of the vaccine will be coming, we don't want to raise expectations and then be forced to cancel. Once the doses are received, we will publicize it and run a clinic along with the COA.

Motion made by Maureen to adjourn, seconded by Chuck. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 PM.