

DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2021

Present: Sherri Hannigan, Geri Pacheco, Diane Barry-Preston, Jacqueline Sullivan, Maureen Teti, Sandra Tocman (remote), Parks and Recreation Representative Charles (Chuck) Dello Iacono, Police Chief Michael D'Entremont, COA Director Sheila Pransky

Absent: Chairman Leanne Jasset, Vice-Chairman Marie-Louise Kehoe, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller

Due to the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, Maureen asked Sherri Hannigan to chair the meeting. Meeting called to order by Sherri at 5:06 PM. Since the meeting was partially remote all votes were by roll call.

Motion made by Diane, seconded by Chuck, to accept the July minutes. So voted with Geri and Jackie voting present.

Motion made by Chuck, seconded by Jackie, to accept the August minutes. So voted with Geri voting present.

Meeting Documents:

- Director's Report

Director's Report: Sheila Pransky

- The updated requirement for wearing a mask in the building requires more planning for all our interactions. One instructor who refused to wear a mask was let go. The Town Manager's Office and Human Resources Department were a part of the dismissal process. We felt bad for the seniors who took the class, but they were supportive of the decision.
- All approvals are in place for the purchase of the new van. We expect to receive it within the next few weeks and plan to utilize the additional transportation options to expand our service to include medical appointments up to approximately 10 miles from the Senior Center. This will include trips to Newton Wellesley Hospital, Boston hospitals, the VA Hospital and Foxboro facilities. I have requested \$5,000 more in additional funds to be voted on at the November Town Meeting to help cover additional expenses and some taxi transportation. Looking forward, I would also like to add a new line item in next year's budget for transportation expenses.
- Our "Welcome to Fall Breakfast" on the 17th is well sponsored. We are planning on a "to go" type meal with the option to enjoy it on the patio if the weather is good. There will be music and the sponsors will make their information available for interested seniors. Tickets for a raffle will be available on the shuttle bus from the Star Market parking lot to the Senior Center. This event is oversubscribed at this time.
- We are working on several pieces for the newspaper publicizing the Tax Work Off Program and other items of interest.
- We are expecting the Health Department to offer flu clinics and potentially Covid-19 booster clinics. Other flu clinics will follow.

Motion made by Sandy, seconded by Maureen, to accept the Director's Report. So voted.

HESSCO:

- There was no HESSCO meeting in August or so far in September.

Senior Center Update: Sheila Pransky

- Sheila met with the Public Information Officer, Amanda Smith. She is available to help the COA get information out to residents.
- Sherri presented an outline prepared by her, Diane, and Jackie with ideas and suggestions for the Ribbon Cutting event on October 2nd. Though some tentative ideas were presented, it was decided we would meet with the Friends next week to firm up plans.
- Everyone agreed wide spread advertising is the most pressing need. Information will be posted on social media sites, local cable stations, and in print.

Livable Dedham / Human Rights Commission Diane Barry-Preston

- Work is continuing on the opening of the Gonzalez Adult Recreation Area.

Old/New Business: None

Public Comment: None

We are returning to our regular third Thursday of the month meetings. The date of our next meeting is October 21, 2021, at 5:00 PM.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.