

DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
Meeting Minutes
October 22, 2020

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, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller, COA Director Sheila Pransky

Absent: Police Chief Michael D'Entremont

Meeting called to order by Chairman Leanne Jasset at 5:05 PM. All votes were by roll call because this was a remote meeting on Zoom,

Chairman Leanne Jasset asked for a moment of silence in memory of Board Member Russ Poole. Russ was very dedicated to Dedham seniors and will be missed.

Director's Report:

- We have continued our outside activities at the Endicott Estate and added a chair exercise class. We hope to continue outside activities as long as the weather holds.
- Adhering to health guidelines, AARP tax volunteers will be available by appointment.
- We held a flu clinic at our first October coffee hour and will hold another on the 30th. All participants must have an appointment for a flu shot.
- Many of our programs are still remote, by Zoom or recorded and shown on cable.
- We are resuming our transportation program on a limited basis. Beginning with grocery trips, we are running as a shuttle from senior housing, carrying up to 3 passengers at a time.
- We have been given permission to expand our MAPC grant program to areas within 10 miles of Dedham. With this expansion more seniors, veterans and disabled adults will be able to take advantage of the transportation program.
- Our shredding event was very successful and hope to make it an annual event.
- We have joined other town departments and agencies to coordinate efforts to provide holiday dinners and gifts. Recipients will be able to choose either receiving a meal prepared by HESSCO or the ingredients for a holiday dinner from the Food Pantry and prepared at home. This will eliminate the possibility of an individual receiving multiple meals when resources are limited.
- The COVID-19 Relief Fund Committee is expecting an increase in requests.
- We are exploring a new program in partnership with the Housing Authority and Dedham Library to get more technology to seniors. To explore the interest of seniors, we are collecting surveys from residents in senior housing. A Comcast program called Comcast Essentials is offering low cost internet connection and there is an option to purchase tablets or borrow some from the library.
- A temporary occupancy permit has been issued for the new Senior Center so it can be used as an early voting site. (See Senior Center information section.)

- Tami is continuing her outreach work in the Town Hall. This is only for document exchanges. There are no in person meetings.

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

HESSCO: Anne Heller

- The monthly meeting focused on needs assessment.
- Meals on Wheels will not be delivered on the exact date of the coming holidays.
- Due to low salaries, there is an inadequate number of direct care employees. Salaries need to be increased.
- Sandy added that though HESSCO is in financially good shape now that could change in 2022.

Livable Dedham: Diane Barry-Preston

- They are ready to purchase the equipment for the adult park, but the Conservation Commission must review the site first.
- Work continues on a list of walkable sidewalks.
- The Dedham Square Planning Committee for the use of the police building/land will be making a recommendation in the next few months. They are still looking for resident input.
- Recognizing that health is so important in all our lives, it will be included in the town Master Plan.

Senior Center Update

- Leanne received notification during the meeting that the Senior Center has been given an occupancy permit! The staff will move in next week.
- Though there are some things that still need to be moved, the center is being used for early voting.

New Business:

- Board members discussed ways to recognize Russ Poole for his dedication to Dedham seniors. A vote will be taken at our next meeting.
- Maureen asked if the COA had received any donation(s) from Amazon. The company has promised to support town organizations through its Good Neighbor program.
- In collaboration with The Youth commission, Housing, and Town Hall, Sheila would like to place the holiday Mitten Tree in the foyer of Town Hall.

Old Business: None

Public Discussion: None

Motion made by Geri to adjourn, seconded by Sherri. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.

