

DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2020

Present: Chairman Leanne Jasset, Marie-Louise Kehoe, Diane Barry-Preston, Russ Poole, Maureen Teti, Sandra Tocman, Police Chief Michael D'Entremont, COA Director Sheila Pransky

Absent: Sherri Hannigan, Geri Pacheco, Parks and Recreation Representative Jonathan Briggs, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller

Meeting called to order by Chairman Leanne Jasset at 5:04 PM. All votes were by roll call because this was a virtual remote meeting,

Motion made by Sandra, seconded by Russ, to accept the May and July minutes. So voted. Chief D'Entremont did not vote on the July minutes.

Director's Report:

- In September, we plan to resume Tai Chi under the tent at the Endicott Estate, the walking group at Gonzalez Field, and other outdoor programs until the weather becomes colder.
- We continue to provide Zoom and other programs on Dedham Cable.
- Though we planned a drive through lunch on the 20th, it became a festive event on the grounds of the Endicott Estate. Following the BOH guidelines, we were able to enjoy lunch at the tables while socializing with one another.
- We are working on retrofitting our buses to accommodate one to three seniors for doctor appointments and errands. We will not be able to accommodate those who require assistance getting on or off the bus to minimize contact between the driver and riders.
- We are still waiting for the occupancy permit for the new center. Lack of a central center makes smooth functioning and coordination of transportation much more difficult. Fortunately, the MACP transportation grant gives us another option for travel for seniors, disabled adults, and veterans.
- In our ongoing effort to reach all seniors, we have mailed cards to seniors who have had contact with the COA in the last 18 months and will send a free copy of the September newsletter. We have also continued our email communications.

Motion made by Sandra to accept the Director's Report, seconded by Russ. So voted.

HESSCO: No August meeting

Senior Center Update:

- Leanne stated there is a meeting tomorrow and expects an update from the Town Manager thereafter. She will inform the Board of the results of the meeting.
- Marie-Louise requested a detailed list of what is holding us up.

Livable Dedham: Diane Barry-Preston

- Lauren Perna has joined Livable Dedham as the communication manager. She has begun a project asking residents "Why Do You Like Dedham?" and is asking residents to answer in a short paragraph and perhaps add a picture. Maureen said she enjoyed doing it and several Board members volunteered to participate.
- Colleagues are meeting to discuss how to best use the funds remaining in grants. They may partner with the town Human Rights Committee.

Old/New Business:

- Diane said that in cooperation with the Planning Board, an article on accessory dwellings is being worked on for the Annual Town Meeting.
- Sandra asked about mail in ballots and drop boxes.
- The COA staff is working on the September newsletter and making better use of emails.
- Capital requests were tabled until the fall at the June Town Meeting.
- The tent at the Endicott Estate is a great venue for events and if the staff could get into the new center, small outdoor gatherings could also be held on the patio.
- Food Pantry deliveries are going well. The Police Department has taken over the deliveries and a core of volunteers at the pantry is doing a phenomenal job assembling the bags of food. There are 5-7 bags prepared for each client that can only be picked up at the door.

Public Discussion: None

Motion made by Marie-Louise to adjourn, seconded by Sandra. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 5:44 PM