Dalton Council on Aging Board Meeting

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Maureen Mitchell at 6:05 p.m. via “Zoom”.

Roll call reflected the following:

**Members Present**: David DiNicola, Gordie Galusha, Joyce Lacatell, Andrea Lassor, Linda Merry, Bob Merry, Maureen Mitchell, George Morrell, Jean Poopor, Pat Suchenicz, Kathy Sturm and Yvonne Washburn. **Absent:** Ralph Young **Staff:** Kelly Pizzi **Guest:** Dustin Buchinski

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the February 10, 2021 meeting were approved after correction as follows: The heading of the minutes report to read “Dalton Council on Aging Board Meeting”. In the second paragraph under the heading Transportation, the word “today” was clarified to read “February 10, 2021”. Under Building Maintenance, the second paragraph corrected to read “Maureen reported an area near Handicap Parking where the asphalt is lifting and a sewer manhole in that area is damaged”.

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Bob Merry reported that we are about three quarters of the way through the current fiscal year with 43.36% remaining funds. Due to COVID restrictions, expenses have decreased in several areas with lower electric and repair and maintenance expenses, decreased driver’s salaries, decreased travel expenses, and less frequent center cleaning. A motion was made, approved and carried to approve the February reports.

**Monthly Reports**

**Transportation**: Kelly indicated that the balance shown includes the $10,000 earmarked for the new van purchase. She filled our guest Dustin in on the benefits expected from the addition of this new vehicle and the purchase and delivery issues. She reiterated that she hopes to recruit volunteer drivers who would be covered under Town of Dalton liability insurance.

**Outreach/Wellness:** Report received. This job position and the value it brings to the community was outlined for our guest.

**Director’s Report:** Report received. A big focus this month has been on enrolling people for first and second doses of the COVID vaccine. Pat Suchenicz assisted Kelly and Dorin in this monumental task.

The AARP Tax Program is now full.

Kelly hopes to ease into some programing with small groups. Lunch Telephone Bingo has been attended by some faithful players and Kelly would like to plan a luncheon in mid to late April as a thank you for their participation. This could be a good “test run” activity. Although the CDC guidelines recommend two weeks after being fully vaccinated for safe small group gatherings, Kelly proposes waiting four weeks before scheduling small groups without masks.

**Building Maintenance:** New signs have been posted prohibiting unauthorized parking at the Center. The security cameras are functioning, although the pictures are grainy. Kelly and Pat Pettit can view the footage and there is also a tablet at the police station that shows real time recording. Motion lights are on the storage shed and there is a lock on the dumpster.

Painting in the hallways is underway. Kelly hopes to replace exit doors that have deteriorated due to improper sealing.

**Program & Volunteer Council:** As more people get their second vaccination, Kelly is looking forward to restarting some programing. Possibilities include the painting class, quilters, knitters, and possibly, the osteo exercise group if they could be reconfigured into two smaller groups on different days. For luncheons, tables would be set for four persons instead of six. There would be only one group in the building at one time and participants would need to be four weeks post second vaccination.

A motion was made, approved and carried to approve all monthly reports.

**Ongoing Committees & Activities:** All on hold, no reports. Dustin was given an overview of all the group activities & committees.

**Old Business:** Kelly estimates that she, Dorin and Pat assisted 400-500 individuals schedule first and second vaccine appointments.

About nine people have signed up for the wreath-making class. Seed starter kits will be distributed next week to those who signed up.

April 1st is the deadline to return the Ethics and Open Meeting Law materials to the Senior Center. Kelly will investigate whether George will have to complete a second sets of materials since he has already completed one for his volunteer position at the County Jail. Also, some individuals were not sure if they were due to submit all of the materials again this year.

**New Business:** Energy efficient lights are being installed at the Center through a Green Committee grant.

Kelly recorded second vaccine dates of Board members so that she can determine when all are safe for an in-person meetings, possibly in May.

Dustin Buchinski , proposed new board member, introduced himself and gave a bit of background. He works for Elder Services and is supervisor of a new program called Commonwealth Care Alliance. He and his wife Dr. Asmara Qamar recently moved to Dalton. After discussion it was decided that the Board would send a letter of recommendation for his appointment to the Town of Dalton Select Board.

**Other Business:**  A reminder that the mobile food truck will be in the back parking lot at the CRA the 4th Wednesday of the month from 11-12 p.m. and is open to all.

There is a community food pantry drive this Sunday, March 14th 9-12 p.m. Contributions can be dropped off at the CRA curbside.

The Rotary Interact group is sponsoring a toiletry drive at the CRA for Soldier ON March 1-31st.

Joyce shared information about waiting at least four to six weeks after a final COVID vaccine before having a mammogram due to potential for symptoms related to the vaccine.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6 p.m. via “Zoom”.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Lassor, Clerk