Dalton Council on Aging Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 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**: Joyce Lacatell, Andrea Lassor, Linda Merry, Bob Merry, Maureen Mitchell, George Morrell, Jean Poopor, Pat Suchenicz, Yvonne Washburn and Dustin Buchinski. **Excused Absence:** David DiNicola and Kathy Sturm **Absent:** Gordie Galusha and Ralph Young **Staff:** Kelly Pizzi

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of the March 10, 2021 meeting were approved as written.

**Treasurer’s Report:**  Bob Merry reported that we are three quarters of the way through the current fiscal year with 36% budget on hand. This reflects decreased expenses due to COVID. Payroll numbers as compared to last year reflect salary increases. Although revenue was down, Kelly reported that she has been able to purchase a tent and square tables with wheels for the Senior Center. A motion was made, approved and carried to approve the March report.

**Monthly Reports**

**Transportation**: Van driver Bill Walker has retired. No Friday van service will be available until Bill’s position can be filled.

**Outreach/Wellness:** Report received. Bob Merry asked for details regarding a request to Patti for assistance in dealing with a Housing Authority handicapped parking issue. As a member of the Dalton Housing Authority, Bob will follow up with Patti directly.

**Director’s Report:** Kelly reported that she received information indicating that the Transit Connect van originally expected for delivery in December, is not even in the assembly stage at this time. Purchase of the van was a State of Massachusetts contract with specifications tailored to the Council on Aging needs.

A “trickle” of seniors are still trying to gain access to COVID vaccine appointments through the Council on Aging. An estimated 600 individuals have sought help getting vaccine appointments.

Kelly is requesting a short bio and photo of current Council on Aging members to be featured in the May newsletter. Please email information by April 23rd.

**Building Maintenance:** It has been determined that the problem with the Senior Center exit doors is related to the concrete pads just outside the doors. Pat Petit will arrange to have these replaced.

Skate boarding on the Senior Center property into the evening hours has continued to be a problem as reported to the police by neighbors. The skate boarders have been redirected to the basketball court at Pine Grove Park.

**Program & Volunteer Council:** Kelly hopes to get the big tent back up on the grounds the first week in May. In the past this has been accomplished by volunteers from the Berkshire County Jail.

The outdoor exercise equipment is being used. Kelly feels that there isn’t a concern about sanitizing since it is located outside with plenty of air circulation.

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

**Ongoing Committees & Activities:** All on hold.

**Old Business:** Only a few individuals are calling for assistance with making COVID vaccine appointments. The Dalton Methodist Church sent a tray of cookies to the Senior Center in thanks for assisting seniors with the vaccine appointment process.

**New Business:** Kelly has consulted with Jayne Smith, Dalton Health Agent and Dalton Town Counsel regarding protocols for reopening the Senior Center. She presented a detailed draft of all procedures that will be implemented in order to follow CDC guidelines and State of MA mandates. She is targeting a tentative reopening on May 17th pending approval of the mitigation program by the Dalton Board of Health and the Town of Dalton Select Board. Kelly emphasized that for the safety of all she will strictly adhere to safety guidelines such as preregistration, hand sanitation, masks on at all times except for when eating or drinking, and social distancing. There was discussion and many questions regarding the above.

A slate of nominees for the Council on Aging Board should be ready for voting at the May meeting. Joyce Lacatell and Andrea Lassor will contact members and present nominees at the next meeting. Bob Merry stated that he would be willing to continue as Treasurer.

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**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.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 6 p.m. in person at the Senior Center.

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The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Lassor, Clerk