

Council on Aging Board Meeting
Ludlow Senior Center
228 State Street
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Present: J. Zepke, D. Peacey (attended via telephone), F. Barroso, K. Martin, R. Forti, H. Grabowski, J. DaCruz, D. Potter, R. Radowski
Excused: K. Ribeiro; B. Mishol
Visitor: K. Green

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I. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson D. Peacey

II. Secretary's Report

a. Minutes from the February 24, 2024 meeting were reviewed and approved with one correction. M. Ardoliono's title is Activities Director, not Program Director. M/S: /R. Forti/F. Barroso. All in favor.

III. Treasurers Report

a. FY 24 and 25 Budget Status: J. Zepke deferred report as she has not received the most recent update, however, believes this year's budget status is on track.

IV. Director's Report

- a. Grant Updates: The Center will not be applying for a \$100,000 two-year (\$50k each year) Elder Mental Health Outreach Team (EMHOT) grant through the Mass. Executive Office of Elder Affairs, as they do not have the staff to manage a grant of that size. There will be other resources for them to pursue in terms of mental health programming. Instead, they will be focusing on efforts to assist the Town become a certified Age Friendly and Dementia Friendly Community; J. Zepke noted this is a lengthy process and the Senior Center will participate on a town wide focus group.
- b. Future Planning: Programs that will be returning for spring include Fitness Advice, Meditation, and a revamped walking group. Tuesday evenings continue to be busy.
- c. Staffing: Naomi White, the part-time receptionist paid through the Formula Grant, is currently out due to an injury. Plans are underway to add a second part time receptionist through an over 60 work-program through the Ray Jordan Center in Springfield.
- d. Transportation Policy: Since the last meeting, J. Zepke developed a Transportation Policy, which K. Martin has incorporated into the Transportation section of the Policies/Procedures Manual. K. Martin explained she added subheads to make the document more reader friendly. The COA members discussed several suggestions for minor revisions. Martin will incorporate the changes the Board discussed and make the revised section available before the next meeting.

V. Chairman's Report

A. Election of COA Committee Officers: New COA Officers need to be elected at the April meeting. The Chairman reported that most of the officers are willing to continue in the same positions for the next year if there is no interest by other members; Vice Chairman, Fernando Barroso prefers to step down from this role for next year due to other obligations however will remain on the COA. He has spoken with member B. Mishol, who

is interested in being considered for this role. A vote will take place at the next Board Meeting.

VII. Adjournment: 5:30 p.m. M/S: F. Barroso/H. Grabowski. All in favor.

The next Board Meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 170, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

K. Martin, Secretary, COA

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