

Northampton Council on Aging Meeting
Thursday, January 14th, 2021, 3:30 pm, Due to the Covid-19 emergency,
this meeting was conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing

COA Minutes

Call to Order: Cynthia Langley called the meeting to order @ 3:31 pm

Present: Kathie Bredin, Cynthia Langley, Michael Ford, Jeanne Hoose, Marie Westburg, Jae Casella, Laura Scott, Bob Dionne, Ben Capistrant, Dennis Helmus

Excused: Gerriann Butler & Aurea Domenech

Public Session: No attendance requested. It was brought to our attention that the Zoom link on the agenda was incorrect again this month. Board members asked Marie to correct before the next meeting.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Kathie Bredin noted that December's minutes did not mention that the Zoom link was incorrect and asked for it to be amended. Motion to approve with amendment-Kathie Bredin 2nd-Bob Dionne

Announcements: None

Director's Report: Marie reported that the online programming continues to be fairly well attended. Grow Food Northampton will use the Senior Center for their Winter Farmers' Market. This is good news to those who have HIP benefits to use. The Board of Health continues to use the Center for Covid testing for city employees. The Senior Center has also been used for first responder vaccinations. The use of our building has led to inquiries from the public as to the availability of the vaccine. We are encouraging callers to check online at Mass.Gov or speak to their doctors. Marie asked Jae to report on the tech loan program, tax prep and calls about vaccinations.

Assistant Director's Report: Jae reported that the tech program continues to be popular. Currently 8 iPads and 1 chromebook are on loan with 6 people on a waiting list. Our tech assistant has been holding 3 appointments in the Great Room per week to help patrons learn how to use their device. The Winter Farmers' Market will be held January 23, February 13 and March 13 from 10-1 following strict guidelines that have been approved by the

Board of Health. Jae also spoke on the volume of calls pertaining to the vaccines. Dennis mentioned that Gov Baker has stated that he will not follow CDC guidelines and will continue with the Phase 2 plan on the state's website. Jae asked Laura to speak on the transportation numbers. In December, we provided 13 non medical rides and 5 medical rides through PVRTA. Beginning in January, Cosmic Cab has taken over our medical rides through our transportation grant. We are happy to announce that AARP with the help of the Easthampton Senior Center will again be doing tax preparations. To date, we have roughly 60 appointments scheduled and calls coming in daily.

Old Business: Kathie Bredin spoke on the anti-racism statement that she & Jeanne Hoose have been working on for the last several months. Kathie asked to read the statement as it is now written for the record. After a lengthy conversation amongst all board members, it was decided that the statement needs to be further revised. Marie asked for clarification on where this statement would be posted since we currently have a statement on diversity and inclusion in our handbook. All members agreed that this is an important topic and thanked Kathie and Jeanne for all their work.

New Business: None

Other: Cynthia noted that the board has lost several members and encouraged everyone to find interested parties to apply for the openings.

Next Meeting: Feb 11th, 2021, 3:30 pm, Northampton Senior Center (via Zoom)

Adjournment : Motion to adjourn was made by Cynthia Langley, seconded by Michael Ford. Meeting adjourned @ 4:33 pm