

Northampton Council on Aging Meeting
Thursday, February 11th, 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 @ 3:30 pm

Present: Kathie Bredin, Cynthia Langley, Michael Ford, Jeanne Hoose, Marie Westburg, Jae Casella, Laura Scott, Bob Dionne, Aurea Domenech, Gerriann Butler

Excused: Ben Capistrant, Dennis Helmus

Public Session: No attendance requested.

Review and Approval of Minutes: Cynthia Langley noted the February meeting date needed to be corrected to 2021. Motion to approve with correction-Michael Ford 2nd-Aurea Domenech

Announcements: None

Director's Report: Marie is currently working on next year's budget plan with built-in funding to bring back the level of services. It is still unclear what programs we will be able to bring back when we first reopen. Staff is brainstorming warm weather programs that could be held outside the building as well as an outreach & informational campaign. Through grant awards, we have been able to hand out masks, hand sanitizers, and other necessities as well as provide transportation. Northampton Neighbors recently worked with us to provide a vaccination information outreach program. Although the building remains closed, it is being used as a vaccination site by the city, a Winter Farmers' Market by Grow Food Northampton, a tech site for our Senior Center Tech Loan program and as a site for our twice monthly food distribution programs. The Formula Grant looks to be \$9 per person this year. According to the street listing, there are roughly 7926 residents over 60 in Northampton keeping our funding about the same as last year.

Assistant Director's Report: Jae reported that the Senior Center staff has made it a priority to provide accurate information about the vaccination clinics and has worked with Northampton Neighbors to ensure consistency in

answering questions. We are assisting the Board of Health by calling older residents to help make vaccination appointments. Jae explained the vaccination process to the board-currently only Phase 1 75+ are being scheduled and Phase 2 65+ (2 comorbidities) have been placed on a wait list. Transportation is available to those who may need it through our taxi service or PVTA. 2-1-1 was released as a way to schedule over the phone for mass vaccination sites only. We have asked MAPC for an extension to use the grant funds we received & enhancements to allow us to use the grant for a wider range of transportation other than just non-emergency medical.

Old Business: Kathie Bredin spoke on the anti-racism statement that she & Jeanne Hoose have been editing since the last meeting. Kathie read the statement with the revisions. There was a good discussion amongst the board members on the wording of certain parts of the statement. Several corrections were made and approved by the board. A consensus was taken that the updated statement was ready to be sent to the Mayor for his approval. Thanks were extended to Kathie & Jeanne for their hard work on this paper.

New Business: None

Other: Kathie Bredin mentioned that most of the board members' terms expire in June. Bob Dionne stated that the terms should have been staggered and Dennis Helmus had mentioned once before that the city was aware of the situation. Marie said she would speak to Dennis before the next meeting.

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

Adjournment : Motion to adjourn was made by Gerriann Butler, 2nd by Bob Dionne

Meeting adjourned @ 4:31 pm