

**Carlisle Council on Aging Board Meeting
Town Hall – Clark Room
February 19, 2019 Minutes**

Board Members Present: Verna Gilbert, Jerome Lerman, Maxine Crowther, Abha Singhal, Bob Luoma

Associate Members Present: Sally Hayen, Ann James, John Ballantine

COA Staff Present: David Klein, Angela Smith

Friends Representative: Peg Gladstone

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Abha Singhal.

Secretary Minutes: A **motion** was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the January 15 minutes submitted by Verna Gilbert. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Outreach and Program Manager Report: A **motion** was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the January 2019 report submitted by Angela Smith. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

- Abha and Carolyn Shohet will host a Women's Breakfast in late spring.
- Angela requested volunteers for Old Home Day on June 22. Bob will do the 9-10:30 a.m. shift, Sally the 10:30-noon shift and Jerry noon-1 if he is around.
- Angela requested help helping with some programs if she cannot get tax workers. The board suggested she send emails when she has more information.

Social Worker Report: David discussed Peter Cullinane's report and commented that the cases he has are very difficult and time-consuming.

Financial and Director's Report: A **motion** was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the February 19, 2019 report submitted by David Klein. The motion was seconded and carried by voice vote.

- David has given a presentation on Senior Tax Relief Programs on several occasions and asked if the board or friends would be interested. There is interest. David also discussed a Boston College report proposing that the Senior Tax Deferral program be managed by the State, which would reduce the cash flow burden on towns. Under the Tax Deferral program, eligible seniors and in some cases veterans can postpone their tax payments until they move out of their houses or pass away. In return, under the current program, the town has a lien on houses owned by those who are deferring taxes, to be paid back when the houses are sold. He also discussed a Department of Revenue report on tax collection, circuit breaker tax and new state software that streamlined their work.
- The Town has signed a contract with Lyft for the new Carlisle Rides initiative and several people have signed up (a Lyft account is needed). Currently each senior would be entitled to four one-way rides/month; the COA staff is considering whether to have another level with more rides/month for some seniors. More publicity for this program is definitely needed: Mosquito letter and press release, perhaps a program describing this new option. The Planning Board is also

working on a broader program, Making the Connections, for which Tim Goddard has written a letter.

- Depending on our transportation vendor relationship we might wish to house the MV1's replacement, a Dodge Amerivan PT, in Carlisle rather than Leominster. In a related note, to make room, strong consideration is also being given to selling our 2003 van, originally purchased with grant funds for \$4,850 two years ago. As an alternative to selling the 2003 van, we've received an offer to exchange it to Cross Town Connect (CTC) in lieu of their membership dues for one year, which are worth \$5,500. COA staff wants to continue providing dispatch service during office hours, but we could avail ourselves to other Crosstown services, if we join. The board voted unanimously in favor of a one-year membership in CTC in exchange for the 2003 vehicle.
- There is a need for at least one COA van driver as one has left. Additionally many others are aging. The COA will advertise for drivers and would consider hiring more than one if they are good fits.
- Budget-wise, we are a bit ahead of the game; with 58% of the fiscal year gone, we have spent 50.2% of the general budget.

Friends of the COA: Peg reiterated that the Friends did not meet their fundraising goal this year, but an anonymous donor has offered matching funds thru May. A donation pegged for the COA will now go to the Friends so that the donation is matched.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS): There was no report as Donna was not at the meeting.

Old/New Business:

- Jerry Lerman brought us up-to-date on the Community Center Advisory Group. A compilation of needs/desires of several groups was provided in our document packet. It was suggested that the list of needs/desires be broken into levels so not all would have to be provided at the same time. Regarding the emergency shelter possibility in the Community Center, it was suggested that someone look into whether it makes more sense to upgrade the school shelter vs putting it in the center. Banta-Davis has also been suggested as a location for the center but the school committee has yet to discuss whether they would be in favor; RecCom prefers Banta-Davis – both are similar distances from the town center. There was discussion about whether to have a presentation about the Community Center status at Town Meeting. Jerry hopes that Abacus will finish up their preliminary work by the end of May.

Next Meeting: The next COA Board meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. in Town Hall. This meeting adjourned at 11:50 p.m.

Documents Provided:

- ∨ Meeting agenda
- ∨ Board meeting minutes from January 2019 meeting
- ∨ COA Outreach and Program Manager Report for January 2019
- ∨ Social Worker Report for January 2019
- ∨ COA Director's Report and Financial update for February 19, 2019
- ∨ Letter from Tim Goddard re support for MAPC proposal 'Making the Connection'

- ∇ Carlisle Community Center Feasibility Study requirements report, including general requirement. COA needs, RecCom needs, Town Clerk polling place needs, BOH needs

Submitted by Verna Gilbert, Secretary