

**Carlisle Council on Aging and Human Services Board Meeting
via Zoom
March 28, 2023 Minutes**

Board Members Present: Verna Gilbert, Ann James, Toni McBride, Ann Quenin, Mary Cheever, Sally Hayen

Associate Members Present: Abha Singhal, Jerry Lerman, Maxine Crowther

COAHS Staff Present: Carol Grueneich

Select Board Liaison:

Friends Representative: Nancy West

Guests: Charlie Cox, Dan Barlow

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chair Ann James.

Secretary Minutes: A **motion** was made by Ann Quenin to accept the February 28, 2023 minutes submitted by Verna Gilbert. It was seconded and carried by voice vote.

Director Report:

- A **motion** was made by Verna Gilbert to accept the March 28, 2023 Director's Report; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- The CCHS St. Patrick's Day lunch was attended by 87 seniors. The COAHS St. Patrick's Day lunch was attended by 48 people.
- The Art of the Scandal was attended via Zoom by 62 people and in-person in the Clark Room by 3.
- More medical equipment was purchased in areas where inventory was low. A ramp may be purchased.
- Each newsletter will highlight a volunteer to give town-wide recognition to the volunteers and encourage more to volunteer.
- A total of 224 rides were provided in March, with 6 going to Boston. Meals on Wheels provided 232 meals to 17 recipients. Two MOW volunteers ran a test trial to see how splitting the route would work. Each took one hour. Starting in April, Stan will deliver meals on Tuesdays and pick up meals from Minuteman Senior Services on the way to COAHS. He will split the route with a second MOW driver. For most Thursdays, one person will deliver all meals. Myriam will monitor the results.

Social Worker Report

- Two new people are volunteering as friendly visitors and the program is growing.
- Summer camp scholarship applications were sent to 15 families and to the school. A press release in the Mosquito might help encourage more participation.
- Carol received an email from the Neighborhood Brigade, a non-profit organization that mobilizes networks of volunteers to help residents facing sudden, temporary crises. They have become more active. They are happy to take referrals or people can contact them directly.

Financial Report

- Expenses are in line with the budget.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS): MMSS plans to move to Burlington by mid-April. MMSS are examining their organization and how it is delivering its services and fulfilling its mission. They are also looking at their branding. They noted a shortage of direct care workers and the fact that many more need these services than can be accommodated. There is a 64% turnover of care workers. There are 4,000 in Massachusetts on waiting lists for services. MMSS has 104 on a waiting list. MMSS is looking for more volunteers.

Friends of Carlisle Council on Aging: Nancy reported that the Friends annual meeting will be on Sunday, May 21 at St. Irene Church and the speaker will be Michael Ansara. The Friends are reviewing their bylaws and are planning for next year's board.

Old/New Business:

- Gleason Library renovations: Christine Stevens and Kaitlin Waterson, GPL Trustees, and Martha Feeney-Patten, library director. reviewed slides showing renovation plans and answered questions from the board. They will contact us later in their process to discuss in more detail ideas for making the renovations senior friendly.
- Carol suggested that the board might want to have a committee to investigate how to make Carlisle age and dementia friendly; community input is required. Carol has materials about such programs.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 25 at 10:30 a.m. in the Hollis Room at Gleason Library. The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Documents Provided:

- Meeting agenda
- Minutes of February 28, 2023 meeting
- March 28, 2023 Director's report

Submitted by Verna Gilbert, Secretary and approved on April 25, 2023