

Carlisle Council on Aging Board Meeting
Zoom video conference
May 18, 2021 Minutes

Board Members Present: Verna Gilbert, Maxine Crowther, Ann James, Sally Hayen, Jerome Lerman, Ann Quenin, Elisabeth Bojarski, Abha Singhal, John Ballantine

Associate Members Present: Wendy Barrow, Donna MacMullan

COA Staff Present: Joan Ingersoll, Carol Grueneich

Friends Representative: Elizabeth Acquaviva

Select Board: Alan Lewis

Guest: Deborah O'Kelly, Amy Livens

The Zoom meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Chair Ann Quenin.

Secretary Minutes: A **motion** was made by Jerry Lerman to accept the April 20, 2021 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 May 18, 2021 Director's Report; it was seconded and carried by voice vote.
- The COA is awaiting guidance from LEPC and BOH re what COVID restrictions will remain in place. There will be both remote and in-person events this summer.
- Spring events: Cinco de Mayo had 100 seniors picking up tacos; 81 are registered for the June lobster rolls. The virtual Metropolitan Museum of Art tour and the springtime bird program are full. The monthly outdoor coffees started on May 14 on the Town Hall patio.
- The COA staff had their first training session for the Joy of Movement dance program. The first event is May 20 with six seniors and six staff participating.
- Meals on Wheels delivered 210 meals to eight seniors in April.
- Sixty-two rides were provided in April; 65 are already booked for May. Flow received a loaner vehicle from the LRTA. Flow averages four rides/month and Lyft between one and three.
- Peter is retiring at the end of May and is transferring his clients to Carol. They will visit such clients this month so Carol gets familiar with them. Joan is having a good by party for Peter.
- Joan and Carol are participating in Unconscious Bias training provided by the Mass Councils on Aging as well as capacity building training to help dementia clients.
- Joan is participating on a panel as part of the CHNA 15 Annual Meeting May 20.
- Myriam will stay at 12 hours/week after Peter retires. She also works hours for BOH.

Social Worker Report

- Healthy Helpings and Madd Love meal programs are well received. Open Table fully supports Healthy Helpings and Madd Love is supported for three months with Lowell Foundation funding. Madd Love participants will probably move to Healthy Helpings after three months.
- About ten seniors are interested in twice monthly in-person storytelling meetings.
- Carol is starting a new support group for people with adult children or other younger relatives with emotional or behavioral health challenges or intellectual disabilities. Three have signed up thus far.

Financial Report:

- Jerry informed us that the COA will probably spend 80% of money allocated to us by the town, returning about \$50,000. Costs will probably be higher next year as we re-adjust to a post-pandemic climate. Joan feels we are financially in good shape for FY22.

Minuteman Senior Services (MMSS): Sally mentioned that there are monthly Zoom meetings with the COAs and MMSS.

Friends of Carlisle Council on Aging: Elizabeth Acquaviva reported that the Friends are in good financial shape and that the Zoom annual meeting with speaker Lincoln Lab Director Dr. Eric Evans will be on June 9 at 7 p.m.

Old/New Business:

- Strategic Plan update: Joan reported that the Strategic Plan is being streamlined as it is developing for this year. A place for seniors to gather and affordable housing are important issues. The COA needs to make sure that a community center stays on people's minds while the Master Plan is being developed.
- Alan Lewis briefed us on the safety building situation. Both the current police and fire stations are out of code or deficient in other ways. Next steps should be in the Master Plan. Alan feels the COA needs to keep advocating for a senior/community center.
- Joan will write a letter to the Mosquito advocating for more senior space.
- The COA needs to include those 50+ as much as possible so we might have their buy-in and donations for senior space. We should advocate for a Friends of Community Center 501 c(3). We already have a conceptual design for a building at Banta Davis.
- A sub-committee was formed to delve into how we can advocate more effectively for senior space. Members are Ann Quenin, Joan Ingersoll, Abha Singhal, Verna Gilbert, Jerry Lerman and John Ballantine. The group will meet Monday, May 20 at 11 a.m. at Town Hall.
- Verna Gilbert, chair of the nominating committee, presented next year's slate: Ann Quenin, chair; Ann James, vice chair; Verna Gilbert, secretary; Jerome Lerman, treasurer; Abha Singhal, Maxine Crowther, Wendy Barrow, Elisabeth Bojarski and Sally Hayen at-large board members. Associate members are John Ballantine, Deborah O'Kelly and Amy Livens. The board voted unanimously for this slate.

Next Meeting: The June COA Board meeting will hopefully be in-person. Details will be provided after LEPC and BOH next meet.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Documents Provided (via email):

- Meeting agenda
- Minutes of April 20, 2021 meeting
- May 18, 2021 Director report
- First pass of updated Strategic Plan

Submitted by Verna Gilbert, Secretary and approved on June 15, 2021.