

Town of Hudson

Council on Aging

Minutes for 2/1/23 COA Board Meeting, Hudson Senior Center, 29 Church St. Hudson MA

A hybrid meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Patricia Desmond; Chair.

Members in attendance through a roll call; In person; Trisha Desmond; chair, Charlie Corley, Anthony Monteiro, Janet Saluk, Ed Silveira and Janice Long; Director.

Attending via zoom; Nina Smith; Treasurer, Melissa Esteves

Members absent; John Gill, Diane Durand, Secretary

Guests; In person; Kathy Janssen

Trisha asked for any additions to the **Agenda** as presented. A motion was made by Charlie to accept the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Edward and the vote was unanimously approved by roll a call vote.

Trisha called for any corrections to the **Minutes** of 1/4/23. A motion was made by Tony to accept the Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Edward and the vote was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

The Treasurer's Report;

Nina noted that the telephone charge of \$88.80 remains to be corrected by the Town. With this deduction, the Center's budget matches the town budget. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Ed, seconded by Janet and the vote was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

The Director's Report;

Building issues:

Janice informed members of the hiring of a new custodian who is responsible for cleaning the Town Hall, Senior Center and part of the Fire Station. His name is William Grey and started on Tuesday January 24th, his hours are 7 am to 3 pm, and appears to be very organized and cleans every day at all 3 sites.

Janice reported the State now requires an emergency switch/sensor on all elevators. If an elevator is used during a fire, this switch/sensor will prevent the elevator doors from opening on a floor where there is a fire. The switch was installed in January at a cost of \$5,000.

Friends of Hudson Seniors:

The Friends did very well with their calendar sales, as they made at least \$1,000 from the sale. The Senior Center main copy machine has been having some issues, nothing imminent, but Janice did mention this to the Friends. At some point the copier may need to be replaced.

Social Services:

At this time Holly and Ana are helping people "New to Medicare". Holly commented she had 9 "New to Medicare" appointments all lasting 2 hours.

Ana agreed with Holly regarding the "New to Medicare" appointments, but added she is receiving calls or helping people regarding the ending of the extra pandemic SNAP benefits. For many people the increased benefit for an individual is \$250.00 in snap benefits per month. This additional benefit will end March 2 and people will get their normal benefit.

Mass Health is now sending out eligibility reviews. During the pandemic emergency, Mass Health did not want to terminate anyone from health care coverage.

Activities /Programs:

51 Seniors attended movie days in January.

Our January grab and go was also well attended with 73 people taking part.

Trying out a new Line Dancing Instructor, Paul Houhes. We will introduce his class in February. Presently we have 15 people signed up for each class with 12 people on a wait list. Janice reported she has been working with AARP Tax preparers getting ready for the start of tax returns beginning Feb 7th. This included a couple of meetings with AARP and our IT department to ensure everything will work smoothly for the necessary E Filing.

DayBreak:

Daybreak now has a total of 31 participants; 13 men and 18 women. The breakdown by town is; 11 from Hudson, 8 from Northborough, 3 from Marlborough, 2 from Westborough and 1 each from the towns of Shrewsbury, Boylston, Berlin, Lancaster, Worcester, Hopkinton and Clinton. The Shrewsbury Senior Center Director has agreed to make clear her Daybreak program is a separate program.

Transportation:

Janice has an interview for the part time driver's position scheduled for Feb 1, 2023 at 2:15. Jack will be out for about 4 weeks following a shoulder surgery. She contacted Jim Klotz and he agreed to cover Jack's food shopping days.

A motion was made to accept the **Director's Report** by Tony, seconded by Ed and the vote was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Facilities Committee: no report

Friends: See the Director's Report above

Correspondence:

The staff received a thank note and flowers from a person who uses the bus and the Center facilities thanking them for all the work they do for the Seniors of Hudson.

Old Business:

Janice reminded Council members that Covid test kits are available at the front desk.

New Business:

Kathy Janssen reported on the meeting she and Janice had with Tom Gregory regarding the Village to Village program. Tom explained due to liability issues Town employees and members of the the Council on Aging can't be involved in the program. See his message below.

- No Town employee or COA member should be directing the efforts to try to establish the Village to Village concept and solicit interest.
- If a volunteer in Town would like to be the "lead", then he/she can do so from their private residence, not in a Town building and not using Town equipment.
- MIIA recommends waivers for any seniors wishing to do this to make sure they understand the Town is not running the program.

Janice has been talking with Mr. Gregory about the Senior Property Tax program and the need to increase the benefit. She explained that the program hasn't changed since it was implemented in 1998. She tried to update this program in 2014 and 2017 with the previous Town manager but he felt our program was fine the way it was. She presented her information to Mr. Gregory and he is interested in improving the benefits of this program.

Adjournment:

A motion made was by Tony and second Janet to adjourn the meeting was made at 1:45 pm. The vote was unanimously approved by a roll a call vote. The next meeting is on Wednesday, March 1, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlie Corley, temporary Secretary