

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING
NOVEMBER 19, 2020

The Board of Directors of the Newburyport Council on Aging met on this date on a Zoom link due to the closure of the Newburyport Senior/Community Building in response to the COVID 19 virus.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Chris Czernik, Board Chair		
Charles Carroll	Rosemary Decie	Richard Eaton John Green
JoAn Kincaid	Annie Maurer	Yvonne McQuilken
Cynthia Muir		

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Miller Graf Elaine Paglia

STAFF PRESENT:

Roseann Robillard - Director, Newburyport Council on Aging
Mary Kelly - Activities Director

Chris Czernik, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Having reviewed the Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting and amending an incorrect date, it was moved, seconded and VOTED to accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on October 15, 2020.

The Board was informed that Elaine Paglia has been appointed to the Board.

The Board was informed of Miller Graf's decision to resign from the Board on November 30, 2020.

John informed the Board that the city property tax rate is not going up, addressing concerns expressed in the last meeting.

Yvonne requested that we talk about the city upgrading the bus stop at James Steam Mill and it was added to the agenda.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Roseanne Robillard

- The Center remains closed due to elevated COVID rates in town. Staff continues to come to the Center and Meals on Wheels and transportation services continue.
- The budget was presented. \$308,000 is budgeted for FY2021, most of which goes to personnel. Revolving accounts for activities and maintenance do not zero out nor do they go into the municipal account.
- Elaine Paglia, who has been voted onto the Board, is on the COA Friends Board and will act as liaison between the two boards.

- The replacement van and pad for the new generator will be partially financed by the Friends.
- The Board has heard no word on the selection of a new director.
- Mary will step in to keep the Board informed during the transition.
- Mary plans to talk to the head of Newburyport Adult Education to get suggestions on how to market programs.
- John remarked that there are no Board members taking part in the interviews for the new director.

DISCUSSION:

- Short term goal is to support the community in any way we can as it goes through the transition to a new director and deals with the ongoing challenges posed by COVID..
- Cynthia will explore with Richard Lodge the possibility of getting information about the programs and activities at the Center into the Daily Mail on a regular basis.
- Mary is negotiating to set up a talk radio program for discussion of issues around the current crisis.
- It was proposed that the Board think about coming up with fun ideas for senior programming.
- Would it be possible to set up a Zoom support group for seniors struggling with the COVID lockdowns?
- What can the center do to help people access mobility and other classes offered for people who can not come to the center? Can this extend past the COVID crisis?

Board members are requested to review the documents on the Board's responsibilities and be prepared to talk about long term goals at the next meeting. Yvonne's concerns about the bus stop outside James Steam Mill will be addressed at that meeting as well.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 am.

Annie Maurer, Secretary

The next meeting will be on December 17th at 9:00 via Zoom.