

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING JANUARY 21, 2021

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

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Czernik	Rosemary Decie	Richard Eaton	John Green	JoAn Kincaid.
Annie Maurer	Elaine Paglia	Charles Carroll		

MEMBERS ABSENT

Yvonne McQuilkin Cynthia Muir

STAFF PRESENT

Paula Burke, Director, Newburyport Council on Aging
Mary Kelly, Activities Coordinator, Newburyport Council on Aging

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Having reviewed the Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting, it was moved, seconded, and **VOTED:** To accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of December 17, 2020.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Paula Burke

The Board welcomed the new director, Paula Burke and she outlined her goals for the COA.

- One goal is to help people navigate COVID and helping them remain healthy and engaged
- The Director hopes to see more intergenerational programming
- Desire is to help make the city a more dementia and age friendly community.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: Mary Kelly

Board members were asked to refer to the written report and to ask any questions they had about it.

- The phone tree, which currently has 12 people on it was discussed. This offers an opportunity for people to have regular contact.
- On a similar note, the pen pal program currently has 17 people signed up.

BOARD BUSINESS

- Cynthia was absent due to a medical issue but communicated plans to put together a report for the Daily News in February. She will work with Paula on it.
- Yvonne continues to work on the issue of installing shelters on city bus stops heavily used by seniors.

- Chris will continue to have conversations with long term Board members about the history and direction of the Board.
- Policies and Procedures
 1. Charlie worked on the procedures in the early 2000's, working off the state and city ordinances. The feeling is they need updating.
 2. Chris and Paula will look at and review Charlie's files on his work and make them available to the Board to review as they are public documents.

NEW BUSINESS

- This year marks the 50th anniversary of the COA and Paula feels we should be celebrating it. We will begin discussing how to do that in February.
- Paula and Mary outlined plans for the upcoming months:
 1. The hope is that the center can reopen by April 1st and no later than May 1st with the tent available for programming to be held outside.
 2. Looking ahead to the resumption of congregate dining with the thought that scheduling programming, especially educational, right after would work well as people would already be at the center.
 3. There are plans for more virtual programming. Three programs coming up are a virtual tour on Tuesdays at 1:00, a community day talk on Wednesdays at 1:00, and "Art Venture" on Thursdays at 1:00. Board members are requested to participate in these programs during the last week in February to help work out any bugs.
 4. There is now a dedicated email for the COA: NewburyportCOA@gmail.com
 5. Marsha True has passed, Chris will send around her address and send a card from the Board.
 6. John raised concerns about the generator. Chris informed the Board that the plan is to set it up in the spring. The Senior/Community building is not suitable to be an emergency shelter due to the lack of showers, but could serve as a cooling or warming center during harsh weather.
 7. Beach Plum will offer a virtual flower program on Feb. 9th.
 8. The activities budget is uncertain as no revenue from programming is coming in. Many instructors are presenting virtual classes for free to keep their classes together, but the hope is to get them back to center and paid as soon as feasible. Director's report will include financial information next month.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: To adjourn, The meeting adjourned at 10:00.

Annie Maurer
Secretary

The next meeting will be held at 9:00 am on Thursday, February 18th on Zoom.

