

Town of Andover
Council on Aging Minutes
February 13, 2020

The Council on Aging met in regular session on February 13, 2020, at the Town Offices. Chair Paul MacKay called the meeting to order at 8:36 am.

Present: Molly Bicking, Joan Fox, Louise Hadad, Paul MacKay, Kim Rainen, Judy Trerotola, Jeff Kaplan via conference call/video, Director of Elder Services Jane Burns and DCS Director Jemma Lambert and Fran Walker

Call to Order at 8:36 and roll taken

Minutes: Judy motioned and Molly second and roll call vote to unanimously approve the minutes from December 12, 2019; Molly motioned and Judy second and roll call vote to unanimously approve the minutes from January 16, 2020.

Fran Walker: Fran will take unexpired term for Ken DeBenedictis; Fran introduced herself Fran had completed the Talent Bank form for the town. She has a background in health care and has experience working in assisted living and long-term care.

Liaison Report – Tolland Fund meeting is upcoming and Louise will be attending. Vacancy for School Committee as Ken DeBenedictis was to liais with them. Tom has been unable to.

Liaison Reports: January 16th housing authority meeting Judy attended; was able to speak with them about Jane's arrival and what was going on with the Center.

ADA – Molly will attend upcoming meeting.

Joan noted from recent Select Board meeting that there is a new energy program that Andover will start in September that is supposed to be greener and may be more affordable. Everyone will be automatically enrolled though residents may proactively opt-out. No impact on distributions charge, only impact on pricing may be on supply charges. The Town plans to hold a number of information sessions, including one in March at the Senior Center and will be on the front page of the next newsletter. The March newsletter will be out next week.

Molly heard about a restriction regarding a solar bylaw Warrant Article. Currently there is no regulation, bylaws, etc. addressing solar panels. The bylaw is designed to encourage solar energy but to do so in a way that is respectful and does not include any restriction on rooves or carports, and includes setbacks.

Correspondence: None.

Citizen Input: None.

Board went around to introduce themselves and give a little background for Fran.

Directors Report – Jane’s first official directors report, as attached.

Biggest news is that bids came in within the last month and were within budget; these are being vetted right now. Positive movement forward with lunch box; moving Kathy Burns office upstairs to allow for a drop in space.

Discussion regarding Newsletter; time it takes to fold, label and tape, printing deadline, etc. May consider reducing the number of mailings and one way to do this would be to mail it when session registration comes up, charge a subscription fee, and Make it available in the community. Focus on electronic communication. Kathy is now sending out a weekly email blast and there have been occasional robocalls. Technical issues with email newsletters not getting to people. Wants to maintain sensitivity to how things have been done traditionally as we do not want to have too much change for people where we have had so much change happening. Do not like that there is no control over who takes out advertising as that is controlled by LPI.

St. Patrick’s Day luncheon at noon on March 11, 2020. Tickets are \$11 with a goal of 75 people to attend.

Fitness has started to run at a loss – to solve the problem, sessions are going to run at shorter sessions and minimum enrollments may start to apply for a session to run; may also look to increase from \$25 to \$30; do scholarships for those with hardship and investigate Friends supplement. Jane does not want a decision about this today as there is a lot of information to synthesize; she would like us to communicate in the meantime and at our next meeting. She will run additional calculations about 12-week sessions at \$30 due to feedback that having additional weeks off would not be attractive to people who want to exercise regularly and at least weekly. We used to offer a punch card for classes and used to also run a half session.

Next meeting is March 19, 2020 at 8:30 at Memorial Hall Library, second floor, enter through the service entrance.

Judy made a motion to adjourn, Molly seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:05.