

## Ashland Council on Aging

### Minutes

June 3, 2021

#### **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chairperson Alexis Christopher.

#### **Board Members:**

Present: Alexis Christopher, Jean Delouchry, Joanne Fahy, Diane Hansen, Sara Perkett, Lisa Uglialoro, Jim Zebrowski

Excused: Patrick McHale

**Guests:** Fran Blake, Joanne Duffy (Director, Senior Center), Steve Mitchell (Select Board), Ana Vladimirov (Activity & Volunteer Coordinator), Candi Wilson (Outreach Coordinator)

**Mission Statement:** read by Sara.

#### **Citizen Participation:**

Steve Mitchell reported that the Select Board officers are Joe Magnani, Chair, Brandi Kinsman, Vice Chair, and Rob Scherer, Clerk. The board discussed how to go back to live meetings as of June 15, as is currently required. Governor Baker has filed legislation to allow remote meetings beyond that date. One member is hesitant to return to in-person meetings, because of health issues. The board may adopt rules to allow remote participation by members. The IT Department is working on ways to allow for remote public participation. If the legislature doesn't grant an extension, the first live meeting will be on June 16. It is mandatory to accommodate remote participation by a member for health reasons. There is no requirement of public participation.

#### **Secretary's Minutes:**

Diane moved to approve the April 2021 minutes. Joanne F. seconded the motion. Approved 7-0-0.

#### **Director's Report:**

Joanne D., MJ, and Jan will be on vacation the week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, but Ana and Candi will be here. No programs will be scheduled. Visitors will need to ring the doorbell.

The food pantry is still open by appointment only.

Joni is having a hip replacement, so won't be leading classes, yet.

The food from Whole Foods and Shaw's isn't being resumed at this point, but might resume in September. The food brought people to the Senior Center, but there were problems. If it resumes, we won't be making up individual servings anymore.

Monday lunches are doing very well and will be served throughout the summer.

Lisa suggested having a class on shots available to seniors (e.g. shingles, flu).

There is interest in having a coffee hour with the new Board of Health Director. Sara had suggested this at the recent Town Manager Coffee Hour.

Pre-registration is no longer necessary for classes.

Tai Chi will not be scheduled on the first Thursday of each month, so it won't conflict with breakfasts.

Alexis is working on the return of the card groups. Mahjong isn't on the calendar, yet.

We're now allowed to serve coffee at the Town Manager Coffees.

Mary Ellen Giombetti isn't ready to return, yet, but does a cable show.

The Parkinsons exercise instructor is seeking housing in the area and plans to return.

Candi is seeking more participants for the Virtual Senior Center. She'll post an ad in the Local Pages in July.

We discussed the need to do something in remembrance of those who've passed away. Joanne F. suggested doing something at the annual picnic.

Ana and Candi have a couple of people interested in walking.

Candi distributed grab-and-go emergency bags for seniors to keep by their doors.

Nick Bialzik built raised flower beds as his Eagle Scout project. Memorial plaques can be arranged. Joanne F. and Ana filled the beds with plants donated by 14 Carrot. Steve asked us to pose with the boxes after our meeting. Sara suggested that the COA write a letter.

The Friends met by phone to authorize \$300.00 for desserts and paper goods. They don't plan to meet in person until September.

Steve suggested that we get an estimate for the picnic from TJ's. Perhaps the Select Board could support it.

Jean made a motion to approve the Director's Report, Diane seconded. The motion was approved 7-0-0.

#### **New Business:**

***Carol Love Resignation:*** Alexis read aloud Carol's email note. Alexis has asked Carol to submit a formal letter of resignation, but hasn't received a response. Alexis will deliver a copy of the email note to the Town Clerk.

***Summer Meetings:*** We decided not to meet in July.

***Fran Blake:*** Dianne made a motion that we recommend Fran for membership on the COA, seconded by Lisa. Approved 7-0-0.

***Maintenance and Upkeep of the Senior Center Rooms and Furniture:*** The person in charge of building maintenance will have his last day on Friday. He will be replaced. Marley cleans, but doesn't do maintenance. Joanne D. is looking into reupholstery by the prisons. There is no budget for this. Steve said that the town doesn't have enough money to do everything. Lisa said it may be cheaper to buy

new, but Joanne D. said it was about the same. Lisa will do some research. Ana has some student art to decorate the walls.

***Friends Not Meeting Until the Fall:*** Alexis will talk to Izzy. We might need to formalize requests for money and attend their meetings.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 12:03 pm.

Submitted by Secretary

Jim Zebrowski

Documents distributed:

May 2021 minutes

Director's Report

BayPath Elder Services Board Meeting Highlights

Mandatory Safety Standards for All Municipal Departments

Eagle Scout Nick Bialzik

Fran Blake's Talent Bank Form