

Concord Council on Aging Board meeting minutes
October 19, 2020

The Board Meeting took place using Zoom. The meeting was recorded.

Present: Carole Cushing, Patty Keane, Christina Kendrick, Kristin Nelson, Ginger Quarles, Rod Riedel, Michael Rudd, Teri Stokes, Andrea Zall (finance committee observer), and Carol Ann Hannan (Chair)

Absent: Grazia de la Cruz-Bardenheuer, Margaret Hoag and Susan Bates (Select Board Liaison)

The meeting was called to order at 4:02pm.

Approval of Minutes: Teri suggested a correction to a typo from the September minutes. In the last section, “so” should be changed to “...our meeting TO accommodate...”. The minutes for September were approved as amended.

Minuteman Report: No report.

Concord Housing Authority: Patty reported that the October meeting was held. They have formed a search committee for the new Executive Director. The current ED, Mary Ann Nelson, will stay through March, 2021. Patty noted that the CHA meeting rarely addresses issues related to seniors and wondered if it made sense for the COA board to continue to send a liaison. The group decided to review the list of town committees (available on the town’s website) at the next meeting to decide which ones should be attended. Andrea mentioned that developers are preparing to break ground on Junction Village (a soon-to-be-developed assisted living facility) and that it might be helpful for the COA to be aware of that development. Kristin noted that Junction Village is discussed at the Concord Housing Development Corporation (CHDC) meeting and offered to attend their next meeting on October 28 at 5 pm.

Disability Commission: No report.

Concord After 60: Meeting held by zoom recently. Theresa has joined the group and will begin to attend their activities.

Chair Report: No report. There has not been a Chair’s breakfast since the last meeting.

Fin Comm: Andrea reported that the committee will meet at the end of the month.

Director's Report: Ginger reported the following:

- The Drive-through Flu Clinic was very successful. 143 shots were given this year. 6 regular doses were given to the 6 individuals under 65; all other attendees were over 65 and given the high dose.
- The COA is halfway through the Buried in Treasures group. This is the second time running this program which discusses clutter in homes. Even on zoom, it seems to be going very well.
- They are continuing to add more programs to the zoom repertoire.
- More staff were trained on starting and setting up zoom meetings.
- Ginger would like to do a bereavement support group. They have done short-term programs in the past but would like an on-going program. In addition to offering general bereavement support, this would focus on what it is like to lose someone during a pandemic when there are no gatherings or services. This will be announced in an upcoming newsletter and will be run by a hospice individual.

- Per the COA board directive, the out of town and under 60 policy has been reviewed. The amended policy was approved today by the Deputy Town Manager. Ginger will email the revised policy to the board members after the meeting.

Future Meetings:

Given the conflict of the COA meeting with the Select Board meeting, the COA meeting was switched to 4 pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month: November 19, December 17, January 21, February 18.

New Business:

Carole gave an update on the very popular, AARP-supported program in which volunteers are certified to help Concord seniors with their tax preparations. Last year, there were 6 tax preparers/volunteers who assisted 110 individuals. With the COA closed due to COVID, this may be a difficult program to offer this year. Carole is still waiting to hear from AARP regarding modified options for running the program and will report back as she gets more information. Ginger said that the COA is happy to serve as an intermediary in whatever way would be helpful to the program (ie, for individuals to pick-up/drop off tax information; for tax preparers to pick-up/drop-off Chromebooks, etc.)

Rod Riedel, the newest member of the board, introduced himself. He is a recently retired scientist who spent 37 years in pharmaceutical R&D and is happy to join the board.

Patty will invite another individual, Dan Riordon, to next month's meeting. He can attend as an observer and decide if he, too, might be interested in joining the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.