

COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024

Meeting called to order at 11:30 a.m. at the Kingston Senior Center and broadcast on Local Seen with Zoom available for those not able to attend. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Caty Starr-Chairman, Donna Weinberg-Vice Chair, Maureen Elwood, Kathy Studley, Mary Hayes and Associate Member, Lucy Colletta.

Other members present: Mary Beth Lawton-Council on Aging Director

Announcements: Chairman Caty Starr announced that there are several volunteer positions at the Kingston Council on Aging for Meals on Wheels, Café help, Computer Skills and for the new season of the Senior Tax Write Off Program. Reach out to the Director of the COA, if interested. Reminder of COA Advisory Board email: coa-ab@Kingstonma.gov.

Open Forum: There was no discussion at open forum.

Secretary Report: A motion made to accept June 11, 2024 and August 13, 2024 Secretary Report made by Maureen Elwood, seconded by Donna Weinberg, and accepted by all Board. Due to July Advisory Board meeting cancellation, no Secretary Report available.

New and Old business:

The Director reviewed the Kingston Senior Center Building Usage Agreement going over with Board her updated revisions. The last update to this Agreement was 13 years ago and changes needed to be made to update with the times. Questions were raised and answered by Director who will finalize Agreement and present Board at next meeting final copy for us to review and vote on at that time. Also, participant application for building use will be shared with Board at that time.

The Board and Director discussed suspension of senior protocol for returning back into the center after 30 day suspension. Director stated that that senior could have a normal return back into COA, since there was not an appeal.

The COA Advisory Board Chair and Vice Chair, representing fellow Board members and our Kingston seniors, presented to the Director questions relayed to them regarding our current COA Code of Conduct Policy. These questions were about further in depth interpretation and possible revisions of this Policy. This discussion was tabled to a later date after current policy approved by BOS.

At our last August COA Advisory Board meeting, a vote was made by our Board in favor to accept both the Age and Dementia Initiative first step process and also the COA Code of Conduct addition added by the Town's Attorney. On Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at the next BOS meeting, these two items will be presented on their agenda and a decision will be made if approved and voted upon at that time.

There were no questions regarding our Budget Review passed out at our last meeting. The Director announced that the COA new carpeting paid for by Capitol Improvement/Facilities.

No Chairman's report.

Old Business moved to next month.

Directors Report:

See Report attached.

Mary Beth was excited to share with our Board that GATRA expanding transportation services to hospitals in Weymouth and Boston. She is working with Duxbury COA, who are reinstating this program, formerly Boston Hospital bus. A survey will be handed out to Kingston seniors and community to see what their needs are relating to this program.

The Director discussed Beth Israel Deaconess Needs Assessment Focus Group. A Community Health Survey by BID has been handed out to all surrounding communities. Our Board was also handed copy of this Survey to be completed and returned to Director. This Assessment will help BID learn about issues affecting people in surrounding communities and to understand what community thinks about quality of life and available resources to improve patient care and community services.

The Director announced that she is working to bring a counselor to our COA to assist seniors with Mass Health applications, a service greatly needed in our community. There will be no charge for seniors. The schedule of this counselor has not yet been determined.

The Director announced that a Compact Grant application has been submitted in the value of \$45,000.00. Keith Hickey, Town Administrator is the main contact.

The Director announced that her application for the Maine COA CHEF grant sponsored by Hannaford has been approved for the amount of \$5,800.00. This grant will be applied to kitchen stove improvements, badly needed, including a new cook top, disconnecting gas and installing electric burners and a convection oven. The Director is getting estimates on these improvements.

The Director was pleased to announce that 344 meals were served this past month of August, which included our special Lobster Roll Event.

The Director announced that Eric Crone, Chair of the BOS, lost his mother day before this meeting. We all extended our condolences.

Next regular COA Advisory Board to be held on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, 11:30 a.m. at Senior Center.

Motion made to adjourn meeting at 12:45 p.m. by Maureen Elwood and Donna Weinberg seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Weinberg, Vice Chair COA Advisory Board, Covering Secretary