

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Council of Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
January 8th, 2019
Rose Baker Senior Center
6 Manuel F. Lewis Street, Gloucester, MA 01930

Board members present: Chairperson: Jay Gustafarro; Roseanne Cody; Vice-Chairperson: Fred Cowan; Karin Carroll; Susan Goodall; Selma Bell; Valerie Gilman; Barry McKay; and Bob Quinn;. Senior Center Executive Director: Lucy Sheehan. Absent: Mike Hale.

Others present: Joe Lucido of the DPW and Jennifer Donnelly of the Mass in Motion program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mr. Quinn to approve the Gloucester Council of Aging minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2018. **Seconded** by Ms. Bell.

OLD BUSINESS

PARKING LOT- *Joe Lucido* of the DPW appeared before the board. He stated that he knows the board has had some concerns regarding the parking lot and they patched the parking lot two weeks ago. He stated that they have been put in the budget for the past three or four years and have gone back to the contractor and they are hoping to get it approved by the City but until that happens they are going to have to continue to patch it. He said they are going to widen some of the access ways and put railing on the handicap ramp. He stated that he will reiterated to the DPW that the parking lot is a priority during snow and ice. The board agreed to attend the City Council meeting when the issue appears on the agenda.

GENERATOR- *Mr. Cowan* asked *Mr. Lucido* if he knew of any funding sources to help enable the installation of a generator at the senior center. *Mr. Lucido* responded that it would probably be a capital improvement item and he has not heard of any talk of it but he will inquire about it.

MOTION by *Mr. Cowan* that the Council of Aging request the use of free cash for funding for the installation of the generator. **Seconded** by *Ms. Cody*. **Carried.**

MOTION by *Ms. Gilman* that the Council of Aging invite *Joe Aiello* to a Council of Aging meeting to discuss the senior center generator for the purpose of short term aid for seniors during power outages and the Good Neighbor program. **Seconded** by *Mr. McKay*. **Carried.**

VAN- *Ms. Carroll* stated that the Mass in Motion grant has prioritized transportation for seniors to access healthy food and physical fitness. She stated that *Ms. Donnelly* had discovered that the senior center has been granted a handicap-accessible van for seniors to use. She stated that 3 of the 4 Cape Ann communities already have either a van or another system in place to transport seniors. She stated that it has been difficult implementing regionalization. She stated that they hope that seniors from other communities will want to travel to other Cape Ann communities to do some healthy activities. She stated that they may have to rethink the regionalization model.

Jennifer Donnelly of the Mass in Motion program appeared before the board. She stated that she appreciates the board's commitment to looking at ways to utilize the van.

Ms. Sheehan stated the COA provides rides for medical appointments for seniors, and is a successful program for many years. Friends of the GCOA support a mileage stipend for drivers to help with gasoline costs.

Chairperson Gustafarro stated that funding for gas for the vehicle could also be an issue. *Mr. Lucido* stated that he will look into gas for the van.

The board agreed to draft a letter thanking Mr. Lucido for attending the meeting.

MEALS PROGRAM- *Ms. Cowan* stated that starting in July, the salad bar will be available Monday through Friday at the Senior Center regardless of age for free.

TAX PROGRAM- *Ms. Sheehan* stated that the free income tax program will begin on February 1 at the Senior Center.

Ms. Gilman stated that it would be great if they could find a volunteer to create a digital poster when there are events at the Senior Center such as the tax program and it can be shared with other City departments.

FORMULA GRANT- *Ms. Sheehan* stated that we were awarded \$88,848 from the Formula Grant and she would like to fund a full-time activity coordinator with the grant if sufficient funds are available. .

NEW BUSINESS

MASS MUNICIPAL MEETING- *Ms. Gilman* stated that she is attending the Mass Municipal Meeting next week and she is going to attend a workshop called Zoning for Aging in Place. She asked board members if would like any questions answered on the topic to let her know and she will ask at the workshop.

GLOUCESTER CROSSING ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY- *Ms. Gilman* stated that they are looking at forming an ad hoc committee to investigate the reasons that the assisted living facility proposed at the Gloucester Crossing is not being built. *Mr. Cowan* stated that some years ago he enabled a research project to discover why Gloucester was not able to entice developers to provide assisted living residences. He stated that the consensus from that research was that the real estate in Gloucester enables a person to stay at home since they can draw on medical care support systems that are in place. *Ms. Gilman* stated that she would love to see the data from that research.

NEXT MEETING- The board decided to hold the next Council of Aging meeting on February 5th, 2019.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

COA MEETING- The next Council of Aging will be at 9:30 a.m. on February 5, 2019.

MOTION by Mr. McKay to adjourn.

Seconded by Ms. Bell. **CARRIED.**

Meeting Adjourned – 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by _____

Jay Gustafarro, Chairperson