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Rehoboth Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
@Francis Farm Hall- 27 Francis Farm Rd
Minutes of March 23, 2022

- 1) **Call to order**---7:00 p.m.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Members Present**--- Neal Harrington, Ron Whitemore, Dr. Robert Lambe, Dr. Bruce Thayer, Charlene Cunha, Sue Laverdiere **Members Excused**--- MaryBeth Moriarty **Director Present**---Linda Sherman **Guests Present**--- Board of Selectmen: Skip Vadnais, George Solas & Mike Diegnan
- 4) **Review past months meeting minutes**---February 23, 2022- Ron W. 1st and Charlene C. 2nd motioned to approve-all Board Members were in favor of approval.
- 5) **Presentations**--- COA Director asked if a sewing serger could be purchased for the Sewing Ladies Group. This special type of sewing machine cuts and overlaps threading for the material to not unravel. Pillowcases and bags are made by the Ladies and donated to Sturdy Hospital. The cost to purchase is \$1400.00---Dr. Thayer 1st and Ron W. 2nd motioned to approve of the purchase- All COA Board Members approved.
- 6) **Expense Reports**---C.O.A. posted budget report Dec. 2021- Jan. 2022: ---Ron asked if we had enough Fuel Assistance funds available for those in need of heat- Linda replied that there were enough funds to get through the winter. FY 22-23 COA Budget Proposal: - No other budget requests, keep as previously been allocated, except the general 3% yearly pay increase- Ron 1st motioned and stated 'as is printed and distributed to the COA Board, Sue L. 2nd motioned- All COA Board Members approved.
- 7) **Director's Report**---
Classes & Events- The following classes have started: Line Dancing, Belly Dancing, Cribbage, Ladies Sewing & Quilting
Walking Club- possible start in April
Pickleball- will start April 7th @Nike Park 8-10am on Tues. and Thurs.
Coffee Hours ---Monday and Wed. 10-Noon still going well
Bocce- would like to start up in nicer weather
- 8) **Old Business**---Dr. Lambe skipped over to New Business to go over with the Board of Selectmen
- 9) **New Business**--- Room Divider for the open space allocated for Seniors- The Director recommended that this should be on hold for a bit. She recommended that food service days and activities be held on alternate days.
- 10) **B.E.S.I. Report**--- Dr. Thayer, who is the Chairman on the Board of Directors for B.E.S.I. as well, stated that Bristol Elder Services C.E.O. Nancy Munson is retiring at the end of the week and Judy Kline will now be taking over the C.E.O. position there.
- 11) **Friends of the Rehoboth Elderly Report**--- Sue Laverdiere stated that Fuel Assistance is still available and that they are currently supplying "Life Line" assistance for 5 Seniors.
- 12) **Correspondence**---None
- 13) **C.O.A. Building usage**--- Yes- Rehoboth Senior Citizens Club Meetings April 6, 2022- April 5, 2023 on 1st & 3rd Wed. of each month-Lorraine Botts. Dr. Lambe motioned to approve request- All COA Board members voted yes to approve.
- 14) **Open Forum**--- Next part of meeting joined by the Selectmen which was posted that they would be attending tonight's COA Board meeting- Chairman Skip Vadnais asked COA Board about future plans for COA activities- currently been too slow since moving to our new facility. Dr. Thayer stated that due to Covid-19, some people have concerns leaving their house, especially attending large functions in public. Dr. Lambe went over plans to start slowly adding in 1 activity at a time per week due to Pandemic and Public Health and safety concerns due to new variants of Covid-19 now emerging. Dr. Lambe and Dr. Thayer can not give a definitive answer to when COA activities can resume to pre- pandemic activity. Dr. Lambe stated current concerns about serving food and masks being taken off to eat. Maybe slowly add in serving prepared and wrapped donuts with coffee in April if able to do so and catered lunches in May.

14) continued...

-Building water has not passed State certification as of yet. Sue L. asked Skip V. if even prepared food items could still be served to the Public without water that has not passed certification. Skip V. explained that there is a difference between 'food preparation and serving food'. The C.O.A. should still be able to serve prepared food. The B.O.S. stated that stove in the kitchen is now working, the new gas valve has been installed and the Ansul system should be up and running by April 1st. The C.O.A. Board stated concerns of not being informed on kitchen equipment or the water filtration/state certification updates or progress being made. The B.O.S. has appointed a new C.O.A. Liaison- George Solas to help with these communication issues.

-Dr. Thayer had concerns about why it is taking so long for the building to have drinkable water. The B.O.S. stated the previous owners of this property let the certification of filtration system expire and the Town was not able to transfer the certification because it expired. The B.O.S. stated that the State is much stricter with Municipal water certifications. The B.O.S. stated that the C.O.A. will be the #1 priority on getting their water certification passed before the other Town buildings. The B.O.S. stated that C.O.A. water and kitchen should be good to go by April and should have no issues serving food to the public


15) **Other Business Issues**—Public Guest members stated concerns about the actual space inside the C.O.A. for activities- Ron helped to answer questions with the spacing constrictions due to Covid guidelines and Tax preparation table areas being used at the moment will not be permanent and that there will be more space available for physical activities. It was also mentioned by the Guests in the audience that there is no receptionist area at the door anymore to greet and help answer questions. They wanted to know if an architect was assigned to the planning and design of the C.O.A. floor plan. The B.O.S. stated that they accommodated what was needed for the C.O.A.

-Question as to why certain Public Town buildings had no mask policy but the C.O.A. does? B.O.S. stated that we currently have 2 Doctors on the C.O.A. Board to help evaluate safety and health risks for our community, because Rehoboth has a greater increase of a Senior population, cautions need to be made and set in place for their health and safety.

16) **Adjournment**---9:30pm- B.O.S. Chairman Skip Vadnais motioned to adjourn meeting and George Solas 2nd the motion- All C.O.A. Board Members unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Robens- Secretary

Approved by:



Dr. Robert Lambe- C.O.A. Board Chairman

Next COA Board Meeting- 04.20.22 @ 3:00 p.m.