



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

Council on Aging

Shrewsbury Senior Center

98 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Shrewsbury Council on Aging

Shrewsbury Council on Aging Board Meeting

March 8, 2023

Minutes

COA Board Present: Jean Campaniello, Meenu Sharma, Arun Subramoniam, and Judy Goodstein, Alex Roman

COA Staff Present: Hollie Lucht, Renee D'Argento

Guest Present: Daniel Cardinale- Friends of the Shrewsbury Senior Center

The meeting was recorded by Krista Fogg of SMC

1. Call to Order-The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am
2. Review and Act to Accept February 8, 2023 Board meeting minutes;
-Amendments to add documents reviewed at meeting.
Motion to accept Feb 8, 2023 Minutes as amended-**Passed**
3. Welcome Friends Representative- Daniel Cardinale
-Daniel said the Senior Center and the Friends are working well together for forward planning
-The Friends are supporting two programs over March (an Irish tunes band) and April (a belly dancer)
4. Reviewed the Financial Reports
-The financial reports were reviewed and discussed. A question regarding the % column, whereby Hollie explained that she was still working to reduce the extraneous information that is only needed by the accountants in Townhall. The members requested that the percent column remain with a better explanation as to what the percent related to in the budget items, and that it may be helpful to understand how quickly we are spending budgeted funds.
-The Formula Grant may increase from \$12 per Senior to \$14 per senior in Town which may increase our grant to an additional \$20K but for now we are still receiving \$12 per senior.
5. Directors Report
 1. Outreach- Renee D'Argento
-Fuel Assistance We are almost through the Share the Warmth program which received over 50 requests. And we are almost through the SMOCK program which received over 60 applications. April 30th is the deadline. Both programs doubled since last year.
Upcoming Programs
-SYSF Counselors and Art Therapy Program- Thu, April 6th, 9-10am: Art Supplies provided. Discuss issues important to you and identify emotions by color.
-Registry of Deeds and Probate Program- April 24th: Review how Deeds, Homesteads, Trusts and Estates effect probate, and an introduction of resources.

-Mass DEP- Adaptive Telephone Equipment- Mon, Mar 20th 12:30-1:30pm: provide information on telephone equipment for those with low vision, who are deaf or hard of hearing, have cognitive impairments, you can have these set up in the senior's home.

Note: All programs will be videotaped to view later.

-Pet Health Fair is coming in May date TBD: Will include free pet health screening, pet collection for second chance animals, adopt a pet unit, presentations, available transportation, and more. We are providing \$2K from the Formula Grant to fund the mobile units to provide free pet screening.

-RAD Program (Rape Aggression Defense) taught by our Police department possibly in the summer or fall.

-UMASS Extension Nutrition program coming in the fall.

2. Activities Committee Update-Arun Subramoniam: See notes below combined with FY Formula Grant Expenditure Ideas.
3. February Congregant Meals Update: The Valentines Day special meal was a success; 55 people attended the meal and many remained for a while to socialize. No entertainment was provided but friendships were being made and new people came forward to volunteer for Senior Center. No special lunch for St. Patrick's Day but will plan one for next year alternating with Valentines every other year.
-Regular Congregant Meals offered for free during the months of Nov-March have increased attendance. We will consider doing the same next year when we have a better picture of the budget and possibly increased funds in July.
4. Finance Committee Budget Hearing Presentation- Town Hall, March 23, 2023 meeting begins at 6:00pm, The COA is scheduled to present at 7:50, the COA Board is requested to please attend to show support the COA and the Senior Center and arrive at 7:15 pm. Bring water.

Special Issues of Note:

-Assistant Director Second Interviews are taking place this coming week in hopes of hiring a new Senior Center Assistant Dir soon.

-Parking Limitations- Parking may be limited at times at the Senior Center due to the demolition of the old police station over the next month or two. Please be patient and plan ahead.

5. FY23 Formula Grant Expenditure Ideas: - Strategic Plan Consultant, Marketing Consultant, Community Garden/supplies, Outdoor Gym (these items not included in the Projects Committee items contemplated by Betsy and Arun)

Note: Hollie Formulated a Letter to Representative Kane and Senator Moore in support of the additional funds for the Formula Grant.

-Strategic Plan Consultant-Issues around a strategic plan consultant to create a new COA 3-5-year strategic plan to align with the Town of Shrewsbury strategic plan since our current strategic plan is very soon out of date. Hollie will reach out to Strategic Plan Consultants who have provided strategic plans to other departments in town to learn their process and cost. Issues to be considered with our new strategic plan will be, a SWOT analysis partially provided by Hollie and the Senior Center Staff, possibilities of evening events, possible part time staff to support evening events, appropriate Marketing methods, additional activities like pickle ball classes, collaboration possibilities with Parks and Rec to facilitate pickle ball lessons.

-Marketing Consultant-Will be considered with the strategic plan.

-Outdoor Gym-Many are interested in learning more about and Outdoor Gym and Hollie will also see if we could collaborate with Parks and Rec. We will need to learn more about the cost of an Outdoor gym.

- Community Garden/supplies-Hollie reported that she requested 3 landscapers to provide quotes with separate prices for add on items for later decision making. And there is a Scheduled Community Garden Meeting for interested town members to have input.

New Business/ Old Business- None.

Adjourn: **Motion** to Adjourn- **Passed** 10:55am

Documents Provided and Reviewed during the meeting:

COA Board Meeting Minutes Feb 8 2023
COA Board Meeting Minutes Amended Jan 11, 2023
COA Board Meeting Minutes Amended Dec 28, 2022
COA Account Totals
COA March Budget Line Item
February Congregant Dinting Totals

Respectfully submitted by:

Lori Jones
Secretary- Shrewsbury Council on Aging