



TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
Council on Aging
Shrewsbury Senior Center
98 Maple Avenue, Shrewsbury, Massachusetts 01545-5398

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022

Present:

Board Members: Jean Campaniello, Judy Goodstein, Shashi Menon, Louise Russell, Virginia Leonard

Staff: Renee D'Argento, Hollie Lucht, Christine Moriarty

Also Present: Melanie Magee, Rowen McAllister, and Debra Mooney from the Community Preservation Committee

Meeting was recorded by Shrewsbury Media Connection.

Meeting called to order 9am.

Motion to accept the minutes of the Feb meeting: The motion was passed, with one modification – Under the Transportation section, the phrase “shout-out” is to be replaced by “special recognition.”

Finance report:

The annual budget as well as breakdowns of the individual accounts were reviewed. The following was noted:

Scan Cards – This refers to the key cards to log into the kiosk. We've issued a lot of new key cards since the center re-opened and had to replenish the supply.

Uniforms - This is for the drivers of the vans.

Food pantry toiletries - This is for toiletries for the food pantry which are included for recipients.

Frozen meals – We recently had to replenish the supply because we gave out a lot of frozen meals prior to the last snow storm.

Door hangers – These are available at the Senior Center. They have info on resources for seniors.

Fiscal Year 23 budget

Services not classified – This is for unanticipated expenses which arise during the year, in order to prevent a budget shortfall.

Community Preservation Committee Presentation and Discussion:

The attendees from the CPC briefed us on the purpose of the CPC and the process that is in place in order to get projects reviewed by the CPC. The CPC is a 9-person committee, and the areas they work in are Open Space, Outdoor Recreation, Historic Preservation, and Housing. They are preparing a CPC Plan and are meeting with various boards and committees in the town to get suggestions and input in order to prepare the CPC Plan. There will also be a public forum at the Shrewsbury Library on 3/29 for people to suggest ideas.

Some suggestions made by board members for areas where the CPC can potentially serve the senior community of Shrewsbury included: Community gardens, ADA compliant trails, Flat well-lit areas for seniors to walk, Wheelchair accessible gardening, and Kiosks on trails with maps.

Report from Outreach Coordinator

Fuel assistance is ongoing thru April.

The outreach survey is finalized and a copy was distributed to the Board. The surveys will be left in high visibility locations around town, mailed to residents, and placed on the website.

Emergency home entry form - This form would allow residents want to provide their emergency contacts and leave a key for emergency responders. This would help emergency services to access the home in event of an emergency.

Discussion of medical alerts. People are reluctant to buy them or use them because they are expensive and also people find them stigmatizing.

Senior Center Covid Update

The Senior Center is back to normal business hours.

Masks are not required but they are available if people want to use them.

Programs

St Patrick's Day meals - All 50 meals are already spoken for. They were ordered from Dean Park Pizza and paid for by the COA. Meals on Wheels will also provide corned beef and cabbage meals for grab and go on St. Patrick's Day.

23rd Senior Center Celebration

This will be held in September during Spirit of Shrewsbury. This is an opportunity to market the senior center. Hollie is putting a marketing plan together.

AARP community grant - If we receive the grant, the funds will be used for translation services. This might be a phone translation service, or the purchase of an iPad for the senior center that will translate for non-English speaking visitors to the Center.

Mass Counsel on Aging Walking Challenge – We will find out soon if we were chosen for this grant. The Walking Challenge is a regional event and it would include other towns, and would highlight our senior center.

Budget Committee Hearing – This is on 3/24/22. The COA is on the agenda for 7:50pm. Hollie requests that the Board arrive at 7:30pm. The slides for the presentation to the Committee are being prepared, and will be emailed to the Board members in advance of the hearing, to allow the Board to ask questions or make suggestions prior to the meeting.

The COA is requesting that the Budget Committee approve a change which would allow all COA salaries to come out of general funds. At present, some salary dollars are paid from the formula grant.

Transportation

Taxi grant has been extended. The COA has posted job listings for at least 3 additional drivers. Transportation is free until 2023.

LGBT training

All COA Board Members, employees, staff, and volunteers are required to complete the training.

New Business:

There was a suggestion that Board meetings can go paperless if Board members can be provided with tablets. Several committees in Shrewsbury have done this.

SHINE update - SHINE counselors are available on Thursdays. Mass Advantage (UMass Medicare Plan) will be giving a presentation. A Fallon Health representative is presenting Medicare 101 in May.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25am.