



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

April 12, 2023

Minutes

COA Board Present: Jean Campaniello, Meenu Sharma, Arun Subramoniam, Judy Goodstein, Alex Roman, Betsy Zuegg, Lori Jones

COA Staff Present: Hollie Lucht, Renee D'Argento

Guest Present: Amy Li- Town of Shrewsbury Accountant

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 March 8, 2023 Board meeting minutes;
-Amendments were requested to add absent board members and correct spelling of SYFS.
Motion to accept March 8, 2023 Minutes as amended-**Passed**
3. Welcome Friends Representative- No one attending from the Friends of Shrewsbury Senior Center today.
4. Reviewed the Financial Reports- with guest Amy Li- Town of Shrewsbury Accountant
-The financial reports were reviewed and discussed. Amy Li stated that the financial accounts overall were in good shape.
-The Board members agreed they would like to receive the overall Munis fund budget reports as well as the detailed Munis budget reports.
5. Directors Report
 1. Outreach- Renee D'Argento
-Fuel Assistance: The Share the Warmth program is at its end. People can still apply until deadline of April 30th. There were 70 requests submitted. The SMOC program is behind and it is difficult to find information about their progress at this point. Customers using Electricity to heat their homes and who have applied to SMOC are also waiting to hear and are only protected until April 15th before possibly having their electricity shut off. SELCO has begun sending out alerts to customers who are behind in payment about the cutoff. The Senior Center personnel are proposing using SOAR to cover 100 gallons of fuel; and, help with electric. The Town Manager is in support of this.
-Mass Health -Redeterminations suspended during Covid, started again on April 7th. You will receive a notification to redetermine your status with MassHealth by the anniversary date of when you started. If Mass Health has your information on file they will recertify you, if they do not have your information, they will send you a request for information/documentation in a blue mailing envelop.
-Extra Snap Benefits- Last Federal allotments ended in March. Massachusetts has extended the benefit at 40% of the federal benefits for 3 month, April, May and June to help families transition. To maximize Snap

benefits, make sure that medical expenses have been fully updated. Increased medical expenses could increase the amount in household assistance.

-Small Home Repair- Calls for assistance have increased for help with safety issues: installing window air conditioners, set out deck furniture, replace light bulbs, replace smoke detector batteries, add weather stripping, etc.

Upcoming Programs

-Pet Health Fair is coming in Thu May 18th 11:00am to 3:00pm:

The Outdoor Fair will include free pet health screening, pet collection for second chance animals, adopt a pet unit, presentations, available transportation, flea treatments, nail trimming, exam, vaccination, micro-chip, feline leukemia testing. Call to make an appointment. Transportation services offered. Outdoor based. Rain or shine. No pets allowed, in the Senior center, other than service animals. Presentations: Foster Parrots Rescue, and Raptor Tails Rescue.

Focus on seniors.

-Registry of Deeds and Probate Program- April 24th: Review how Deeds, Homesteads, Trusts and Estates effect probate, wills; and an introduction of resources.

-Internet Safely Program- coming soon with a local high school student and a police officer (community liaison).

Alert: Hollie pointed out that people have been sending out letters in Hollie's name asking for donations for heart and leukemia charities. Hollie said they will not send letters to your house asking for donations. Please let Hollie know if you receive letters like this. Hollie will report it to the police.

2. Activities Committee Update-Arun Subramoniam and Betsy Zuegg: Reviewed the list of ideas brainstormed and organized into categories: Health and Wellness; Financial Wellness; Purpose and Meaning; Other Ideas; and Collaborate with Friends. Questions included: How can we help homebound seniors? Could we get a survey out though Meals on Wheels? Do homebound seniors have internet for online programs? And, Renee has more suggestions for the activities list.
3. Senior Center Hours: July 1st changing to Mon, Wed, Thu 8:00am to 4:30pm; Tue 8:00am to 6:30pm; Fri 8:00am to 12:00noon permanent hours to align with the Town Hall hours.
4. Senior Center Outdoor- Discussed the Four outdoor landscaping plans provided by interested Landscapers. The designs included pavers vs stone dust; planters hopefully moveable; and a possible sail cloth shade covering removable in the winter seasons; and benches.
- Also discussed the Land gifted to the Town of Shrewsbury (5 acres) which may be a possibility for a true community garden other than the garden area we are planning for the Seniors at the Senior Center.
-Motion to plan forward for an outdoor space at the Senior Center not to exceed \$40K. **Passed.**
5. March Congregant Meals Update- 468 meals totaling \$1,170. It has been a success. We may try to have an evening meal at some time.
6. YMCA Update- The contract allows members to have a choice to attend a gym among multiple locations. The YMCA requests the option to remove members who are not utilizing the membership at least once a week.

New Business/ Old Business-

Old: Update on search for a new Assistant Director

-25 people applied; 9 names selected for interviews and interviews will begin next week;

New: Suggestion to add to possible activities/service for Seniors- Offer car cleaning services for Seniors unable to clean their car due to joint problems or unable to go to the car wash.

Adjourn: **Motion** to Adjourn- **Passed** 11:00am

Documents Provided and Reviewed during the meeting:

COA Board Meeting Minutes March 8 2023
COA Board Meeting Minutes Amended Jan 11, 2023
COA Board Meeting Minutes Amended Dec 28, 2022
COA Account April Totals Report
COA April Budget Line-Item Report
March Congregant Dining Totals
Activities Committee List of Possible Activities
Four Landscaping/Garden Proposals
Activities survey for home bound Seniors
YMCA Partnership Agreement

Respectfully submitted by:

Lori Jones
Secretary- Shrewsbury Council on Aging