



**TOWN OF SHREWSBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
98 Maple Avenue,
Shrewsbury, MA. 01545**

Council on Aging (COA) Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 14, 9:30 AM

MINUTES

Important Notice: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, **this meeting of the Shrewsbury Council on Aging Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible.** Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the town's website, at www.shrewsburyma.gov/coronavirus. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen or watch the meeting may do so by visiting <https://www.shrewsburymediaconnection.org/>. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting. To participate in a scheduled public hearing, dial 1-304-810-2258 and enter the following pin: 580-321-286#. Please mute your device until the Chair of the Board addresses your agenda item or opens the meeting to public comment.

Members in attendance: Board Chairperson- Shashi Menon, Vice Chairperson - Zoya Mehta, Norma Giumentaro, Louise Russell, Betsy Zuegg.

Staff in attendance: COA Director - Hollie Lucht, Administrative Assistant- Christine Moriarty, Elisabeth Peterleitner, Outreach Coordinator, and Marc Serra, manager for SMC.

1. The April meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM. This was followed by a roll call to confirm remote participation. The Remote Participation Script was read verbatim.
2. The March Minutes were accepted, with corrections, with an unanimous vote.
3. Christine Moriarty reviewed the Financial Reports.

- The Gift Account has a balance of \$38,458.07
- The Formula Grant - current expenses: \$27,354.51
- The Revolving Account has a balance of \$23,600.42
- The DOT Account has a balance of \$12,881.38
- The General Fund - Operating Expenses: \$ 11,281.46
- The Taxi, Livery and Hackney Transportation Grant - \$19,962.00, This will be used to extend transportation beyond our scheduled work hours, which includes nights and weekends from April through December 31, 2021.

4. Update from Outreach Coordinator: Elisabeth Peterleitner

(a) Shared Winter Streets \$45,000: Awarded March 3, 2021. Hollie and staff are working toward implementing this program which will establish and provide a Senior Salt program to our residents including salt, buckets and basic snow removal equipment, as well as installing benches to encourage safer all-season walking throughout the downtown, park and recreation, and school facilities throughout town. This money must be expended by May 31, 2021.

(b) MCOA Field Demonstration Project \$4,981.50: Awarded March 5, 2021. To be completed by June 30, 2021- MCOA will reimburse funds, as we use them, to support our food sharing pantry. Future purchases include: Refrigerator, 50 microwaves, gloves, bags and to order 'Heart to Home' meals.

(c) The TRIAD program: Collaboration has begun to better establish interconnected relationships and support between different Shrewsbury departments. (COA, Library, Fire, Police, SYFS)

(d) The Council on Aging staff is presently working on an AARP Community Challenge Grant that will be submitted and announced in April. This will support the YAHOO program and Small Home Repairs.

(YAHOO , Young Adults Helping Out Others, is a program for students grade 7-12 to help Seniors in the Spring and Fall with yard clean ups. This program will also include the Shovel Program which will help Seniors with shovels, sand, salt and anything else that might be needed to help clean out the snow.)

5. Hollie Lucht presented the Director's Report. The items listed below were discussed.

(a) Shrewsbury Housing Authority Contract is up on March 31, 2021. Updates for the van use will be in May Newsletter. WRTA is offering a new opportunity for anyone who needs a ride within the normal routes of the vans. People can wait at the bus stations from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Friday, for \$2.00 per ride.

(b) COA Policy/ User Procedure Review: MCOA has published a book for directors and COA members to reference on how to work more efficiently and build good relationships with people and groups within the Senior Center. Hollie will try to get a digital copy of this. We will also be looking at the town of Sharon's bylaws.

(c) COVID Operation Plan: MCOA has put together guidelines on how to reopen the Senior Centers. Hollie will use these as a reference for our center. On May 10, 2021 outdoor activities will begin. Indoor activities will begin June 1, 2021 with COVID rules in place as to distance and number of people allowed in a room. Bathrooms will support two people at a time. SHINE, The Memory Cafe, fitness and games will all be on a schedule. The reception desk will have a volunteer to oversee that rules are being followed. A volunteer will also be posted outside to control the flow of people.

(d) The building department is repairing the brick walkway in preparation for the raised beds that we will have. Outside tables with attached seats will be bought and used on the campus in the grassy areas. Umbrellas will also be purchased.

(e) Tax Preparation: The Senior Center had received aid from AARP to offer assistance with tax preparation at the Center on Thursdays from 9:00 to 3:00. 14 people a day were helped with 10 on the last Thursday.

6. Transportation: Two people at a time will be allowed in the vans starting in June.

7. A roll call vote was taken on a motion to adjourn; the motion was made by Zoya Mehta and seconded by Louise Russell. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara DePalo,
Recording Secretary,
Council on Aging Board.