

Williamsburg Senior Center Advisory Board

Minutes of the Meeting: May 20, 2020

The meeting was held on the telephone by a prearranged connective service.

Present: Daria D'Arienzo, Jacqueline Dufresne, Margaret Ricci, Maureen O'Brien, Dean Acheson, and Melissa Wilson, Director. Quorum was met.

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.

Minutes of previous minutes: Minutes of the Meeting of February 19, 2020 were accepted as amended.

Introduction of New Director: Melissa Wilson, the new Director of the Senior Center was welcomed and made remarks:

Melissa started March 9, 2020, just before the Covid 19 shutdown; everything is continuously evolving, but the Center has been busy nevertheless. There are no congregate meals, but Highland Valley is providing packaged meals for seniors requesting them. One driver is delivering up to 20 meals to them daily, Mondays-Fridays. Volunteers are also providing grocery store pick-ups. PVRTA has taken over medical rides. Some groups are operating via Zoom, including the Men's group and Tuesday night Yoga Group. She praises the staff, who are making weekly calls to 85 seniors to check up on their wellbeing, what help they receive from families, neighbors and helpers.

Dean asked if they need more help.

Outreach:

Melissa asks about Triad, the safety community. Larry West has information, and Dean will contact him at the Men's Breakfast meeting.

Activities:

- Melissa is working with Charlene Nardi to get up to speed on three yearly regular grants, including PVRTA, Highland Elders, and Formula grant from Mass Council on Aging.
- Senior Center is activating a project to increase the ability of seniors to receive SNAP benefits, training and working with staff to distribute informational flyers and to help seniors apply. Melissa will send a link to information to C.O.A. Board members.
- She attends a weekly distance meeting of town department heads and leadership.
- There will be farm shares for seniors for \$3 weekly available from the end of June.

Old Business:

Staff: Melissa has regular conferences and a weekly meeting with staff. They are working remotely and also occasionally at the Center on a staggered schedule. She is in the office Monday through Thursday 8:30a.m. - 1p.m.

New Business:

- Daria D'Arienzo recommended that Melissa reach out to members of the Board with regular updates, perhaps bi-weekly, on the work of the Senior Center, so that the Board members can remain connected and continue to be ambassadors for the work of the Center. Board members agreed with this recommendation.
- Zoom meetings are preferred over telephone conferences in the future.
- Dean Acheson has moved from an associate member to becoming a full voting member.
- Maureen suggests that the vegetable garden in the back of Town Hall be allowed to become a perennial herb garden, which doesn't require tending during this time.
- Daria proposed that the minutes reflect the C.O.A. Board's deep thanks to Melissa and all the COA staff members for their dedication to our seniors and for quietly stepping up and doing what needed to be done during the pandemic. Seconded.

Next C.O.A. Board meeting will be held on Weds. June 17th via Zoom at 12:15p.m.

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Adjournment at 12:50 p.m.