

CITY OF GLOUCESTER
Council of Aging
Minutes of the Meeting
June 4th, 2019
Rose Baker Senior Center
6 Manuel F. Lewis Street, Gloucester, MA 01930
(Corrected Minutes)

Board members present: Chairperson: Jay Gustafarro; Vice-Chairperson: Fred Cowan; Roseanne Cody; Selma Bell; Karin Carroll; Valerie Gilman; Susan Goodall; Barry McKay; Bob Quinn and Tony D'Antonio. Senior Center Executive Director: Lucy Sheehan. Absent: Mike Hale.

The audio of the meeting is being recorded.

Vice-Chairperson Cowan welcomed Mayor Romeo-Theken to the meeting.

Mayor Sefatia Romeo-Theken appeared before the board. She stated that a vote of membership and an annual meeting is overdue on the Council of Aging. She stated that she would like to see the board grow and change. She stated that there should be no negativity between agencies or departments. She stated that the Senior Center does not accept or store used furniture and/or bedding materials and personal items. She stated that there is a bedbug epidemic and nothing used can be accepted at the Senior Center so the center does not become infected. She stated that the conference room at the Senior Center will be left as a conference room. The board discussed some storage areas within the Senior Center. *Mayor Romeo-Theken* stated that Senior Center newsletter should be expanded. She stated that they need to be the voice of all seniors. *Ms. Cody* stated that she would volunteer to be in charge of organizing the van activities. *Ms. Goodall* volunteered to create a Facebook page for the Senior Center. *Mayor Romeo-Theken* stated that the board needs to come up with a fee schedule for using space at the Senior Center.

The board thanked the Mayor for attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ms. Gilman to approve the Gloucester Council of Aging minutes of the meeting of May 7, 2019. **Seconded** by Mr. McKay.

OLD BUSINESS

MASS IN MOTION - *Ms. Carroll* gave board members a brief update on the transportation funded by the Mass in Motion grant. She stated that there was an article in the newspaper and there was an error listed; the van cannot be used to drive seniors to medical appointments under the grant. She stated that they had a preliminary meeting with the other four towns that are involved with the grant. She stated that a part-time coordinator will help with the grant. She stated that anyone interested in driving the van needs to go through CATA. *Ms. Gilman* stated that there are kayak racks available to rent for \$100 for the season, applications are available at Harbor Loop.

DEMENTIA STEERING COMMITTEE- *Mr. D'Antonio* stated that there is a Dementia Steering Committee meeting scheduled for next week.

FIRE SAFETY- *Mr. Cowan* stated that he is looking into fire-resistant furniture for the Senior Center and the doors need to have magnetic devices that keep them open. He stated that they are looking into updating the sprinkler system as well. He stated that there are minor alterations that need to be addressed in the restrooms to be brought up to ADA standards.

MEALS ON WHEELS- *Mr. Cowan* stated that the Mayor approved the Senior Center as a Meals on Wheels distribution hub.

PAINT COLOR- *Mr. Cowan* stated that he asked Christine Armstrong to suggest colors for the exterior walls at the Senior Center. The board agreed with the suggested colors.

BUDGET- *Ms. Sheehan* stated that the request for a senior center activity coordinator in FY20 City Budget, was not approved

DPW- *Mr. Cowan* stated that the DPW will be coming to the Senior Center to remove stored items from the Senior Center.

NEW BUSINESS

BRIDGES AND INTERGENERATIONAL PROGRAM- *Ms. Sheehan* stated that had a conversation with Andrea Weaver, Bridges founder, for information about bringing additional Intergenerational programs to the Senior Center.

Ms. Carroll stated that the Public Health Nurse has started the North Shore Home Visiting Program for new mothers that includes a free home visit. She stated that they are looking to expand the program to include a mothers' group and suggested that the group meet at the Senior Center. The board discussed whether the senior center should be an intergenerational center.

CONCERNS OF BOARD MEMBERS

GOOD NEIGHBOR PROGRAM- *Ms. Gilman* stated that Joe Aiello is interested in the Good Neighbor program and she suggested inviting him to a meeting to discuss the program.

COA MEETING- The next Council of Aging will be at 9:30 a.m. on July 2, 2019.

MOTION by Ms. Gilman to adjourn.
Seconded by Ms. Goodall. **CARRIED.**
Meeting Adjourned – 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobbi Orlando

Accepted by

Jay Gustaferra Chairperson