

Commission on Aging Meeting Minutes--Approved

Special Meeting Monday February 22, 2021

Regular Meeting time of 2:30pm canceled

Special Meeting time changed to 7:15pm

Attendees: Debra Franceschini, Sheila Silverman, Mary Morrisroe, George Noyes, Maureen Culhane, Andrea Beebe, Stephanie Rowe, Karen Gaudian, Tony Phillips

Absent: Laura Giovannoli, Cathleen Savery

Meeting was held via Zoom call and the time changed due to the COVID-19 virus

Recorded by Tony Phillips

Meeting called to order at 7:20pm by Debra Franceschini, filling in for Laura Giovannoli in her absence.

Approval of January minutes: Mary Morrisroe made the motion to approve the minutes, George Noyes seconded the motion, and all in favor- Motion passed.

Debra Franceschini initiated a discussion to change the meeting start time to 7pm from 7:15pm was made to table talk until the March meeting.

Stephanie Rowe was welcomed as a new member to the Commission on Aging.

Review of Valentines Day Senior Giveaway- the event went well. Mary Morrisroe reported that the Ballard Green residents loved their Valentine giveaways. Debra Franceschini reported that our partnership with the high school Interact Club went smoothly. The young adults did a great job and were very responsible making sure each resident received a bag. Maureen Culhane and her daughter handed out bags to seniors who live in Casagmo and Fox Hill. Karen Gaudian received the extra bags to hand out to seniors throughout town. Do we want to expand this program? Plan with other groups?

Adopt-a-Senior: Maureen reported her perspective is the COA town wide distribution of Valentines was able to achieve our goal and maybe for now we should continue with what Debra started. We can look at Bethel's plan later if needed.

VSAFE: Sheila reported that people were called who had taken the vaccine to see how they are feeling or reacted. At this time, we can only use cell phone numbers. George would like to be able to call people on their home phones also.

Call to Seniors in Isolation: George suggested sending emails to seniors. What does "in isolation" mean? What information do we need to share- relevant town phone numbers and emails, Meals on Wheels Support system? Teaching zoom to seniors for ease of having doctor appointments.

Are U OK? Mary mentioned not confusing this outreach of these phone calls about who

Discussion on how to obtain lists for all seniors without violating any privacy laws

- Legal aspect of obtaining contact info- could become a FOIA request

- HIPAA issues

- Need for a singular list- who or what entity could develop this list.

- Sheila recommended somehow reaching seniors with a form to fill out an "emergency" card formal application.

The seniors' responses would be voluntary.

COVID update: Stephanie explained the new CT vaccine guidelines and rollout plan. Cannot use preexisting conditions to bypass. Vaccines will be given by age. Yet, teachers can bypass as essential workers. Starting March 1st, VAMS will permit sign up for ages 55-64. New groups will be added to the vaccine sign up list. Goal is by May 12th, vaccines will be available for individuals 16-34.

Next Meeting: March 15, 2021 at 7:15pm via Zoom.