

Commission on Aging [April 19](#), 2021 Minutes

Regular Meeting time of 2:30pm canceled

Special Meeting time changed to 7:15pm

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

Absent: Laura Giovannoli, Cathleen Savery

Debra Franceschini-Gatje filled in for Laura Giovannoli as chair and opened the meeting at 7:15pm.

Reviewed and accepted March Minutes: Sheila Silverman made the motion and Mary Morrisroe seconded, all approved.

Discussion regarding the establishment of a COVID 19 Flag Memorial in town to honor and recognize the individuals who unfortunately lost their lives due to Covid 19.

- Different ideas were shared: flags, planting bulbs, pinwheels
- Forming a partnership with other entities in town to advance the idea
- Reach out to Town Hall for its feedback
- Will revisit at our next meeting

Discussion on Life Saving Technology for Residents with Dementia

- GPS (Lifesaver)- tied to an individual's phone- personal purchase
- Concerns about device being removed
- is this an outreach that should be led by the police department- Reach out to Chief Kreitz

Compassionate Ridgefield

- Neighbor to Neighbor Is being phased out by [May 15](#), 2021. Various reasons provided. Fewer people are reporting they need assistance. Most have been vaccinated and report wanting to resume the day to day activities.
- If help or assistance is still required the residents may still contact Tony Phillips or Karen Guadian.
- Stephanie proposed a change to N2N- making a volunteer sign up to assist seniors. Individuals would need to be cleared to partake. Before going ahead with this, will wait to see if Tony or Karen are contacted.

Compassionate Ridgefield Pledge- Discussed whether the COA wants to take the pledge. Organizations, businesses and individuals may take the pledge. We will review the pledge and discuss at our May meeting.

Applying for Grants

- Stephaine Rowe will look into grants and grant writing before our MAY meeting
- Grants and outreach- SPecific needs to General requests

New Business

- Sheila reported that Founder's Hall will reopen [June 1st](#). Must be vaccinated to attend classes and activities indoors.
- Mary Morrisroe shared she will be part of the [June 12th](#) presentation "We will Shine On" with Amy Cohen and Kevin Brown in Ballard Park. She will run the "R-U OK" table. Would COA like to be part of it and have a table? Further discussion to take place at our May meeting.
- Debra made a motion to nominate Stephiane Rowe to the Vice Chair position for COA. Andrea Beebe seconded. Stephanie Rowe abstained from the vote. The remaining members all voted to approve.
- Debra informed us that she will not resign from COA and looks forward to her continued participation in the commission.

Meeting was called to a close at 823pm. George Noyes made the motion; Debra seconded; All approved.