



TOWN OF HOLDEN MASSACHUSETTS

COUNCIL ON AGING

Louise Charbonneau
Director

HOLDEN COUNCIL ON AGING **Thursday, June 1, 2022 ~ 8:00 a.m.** **Holden Senior Center**

Present: Sue Sullivan, Maureen Locke, Wayne Howard, Nancy Melton, Lois Johansen, Stephanie King, Louise Charbonneau

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Susan Sullivan at 8:03 a.m.

The minutes from the meeting of May 4, 2022 were unanimously approved.

F.H.C.O.A. REPORT – Wayne Howard

The Morning Glory Café held each Friday is averaging 50-60 people and grossing approximately \$100/week. The Friends has started the process of offering delivery of the monthly newsletter electronically. The July newsletter will have more information. They are asking for people to offer donations for the quilt which was donated to the Friends. People have until August 31st to submit their offer. The person proposing the highest donation will be awarded the quilt on September 1st.

HELP @ H.O.M.E.

During our meeting with the Help at H.O.M.E. Committee last month, Louise was asked to put together a chart showing the disbursements from the fund showing the vendor and the amount of the distribution along with an explanation of the purchase if it wasn't clear. These charts, one showing FY21 and the second showing FY22 through April 30. Sue made it clear, as a reminder to the Board that our sub-committee simply does the vetting. The Help at H.O.M.E. Committee decides how they feel the money should be spent. She did point out that with the rising cost of heating oil, it now costs \$800-\$1000 to fill a tank as compared to \$400-\$600 previously. She offered her kudos to Outreach Workers, Paula and Dale for their thoroughness.

BOARD OF ELDER SERVICES REPORT ~ Susan Sullivan

May's meeting was relatively short. As is customary, there was a brief presentation of the status of the current budget. The Board was then asked to support the following proposals relative to the upcoming budget:

- 1: A 4% salary increase for all ESWA staff positions except Executive Director was approved.
2. Budget as presented was approved as presented.
3. Longevity Timeline was approved. This details the incentives offered for continuous years of service.
4. Bonus Proposal as presented was approved. This is bonus funds available to staff, which is reimbursed from either State or Federal Funds.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JUNE EVENTS

Monday, June 13 ... Free Legal Clinic ... 10:30-12:15 ... Attorney Arthur Bergeron from the law firm of Mirick O'Connell will offer free 15 minute consultations. Appointments are **required** and are held between 10:30 and 12:15. Make your appointment by calling the Senior Center at 508-210-5570. Your appointment can be in person here at the Center or over the phone where Mr. Bergeron will call you at the scheduled time.

"Write On" ... 1:00 ... Would you like to learn to write? Instructor Cora Broskowitz will be offering a 6-week writing class entitled "Write On." Classes will be on Mondays beginning **Monday, June 13 at 1:00 p.m.** Each week will start with a prompt. Participants will read aloud and receive critiquing from their peers. Method of critiquing will ALWAYS be offered with kindness. The first sessions will include learning to write first a sentence, then a paragraph and finally a page. Each participant will explain their goal, i.e., a memoir. If there is a need to continue the process beyond the 6 weeks, the group can continue. If you'd like to participate in this class, please call 508-210-5570. Number of students is very limited so please register early. We respectfully ask that you commit to the entire 6 weeks.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (cont'd)

Wednesday, June 15 ... Home Cooked Meal ... 12:00 ... The staff will be back in the kitchen and cooking up a delightful teriyaki chicken with rice pilaf, vegetable, rolls and butter, dessert and beverage. Cost of this meal will be \$5.00/person. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 508-210-5570. We will accept reservations through business on Friday, June 10 or until we reach capacity. We respectfully request that each individual/household make their own reservations. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thursday, June 16 ... Book Club ... 10:00 ... Our book club is reading **The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah
Out to Lunch Bunch ... 11:30 ... We have been enjoying our out to lunch group meetings at a lot of local restaurants throughout the year. Dale would like to hear your suggestions as to your favorites, and if you would like to continue meeting throughout the summer months. **For June, we are going to go to Two Chefs Restaurant located at 317 West Boylston Street in Worcester.** Call Dale at 508-210-5576 to reserve your seat.

Monday, June 20 ... The Senior Center will be closed in observance of Juneteenth.

Wednesday, June 22 ... 1:00 ... We Are One with the Earth ... We must care for our residence, the Earth, which shields and nourishes us. Learn about Rachel Carson, who pointed out the dangers of pesticides; Gregor Mendel, who taught us hybridization; and the tragedy of the Irish potato famine, where human needs and the needs of the natural world were by-passed. This unique program is presented through a collaboration of the Holden Garden Club and the Holden Senior Center. To reserve your seat, please call the Senior Center at 508-210-5570.

Wednesday, June 29 ... 1:00 ... Strawberry Festival ... It's been a few years but we thought it might be fun to bring back the Strawberry Festival! We invite you to come, bring a friend, and enjoy a strawberry treat while socializing. Strawberry shortcake and a beverage will be served. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 508-210-5570.

SUMMER EVENTS CURRENTLY PLANNED – needless they are subject to change as well as added to:

Wednesday, July 6 – Zentangle Class with Mary Shepherd – 1:00

Monday, July 11 – Legal Appointments with Arthur Bergeron – 10:30-12:15

Monday, July 25 – Porch Pot Workshop with Tina Bemis – 1:00

Monday, August 8 – Legal Appointments with Arthur Bergeron – 10:30-12:15

Monday, August 15 – Steel Accent Band Concert – 1:00

Wednesday, August 17 – Annual Cookout – 12:00

Wednesday, August 24 – The Seven Hills Four (barbershop quartet) – 1:00

Monday, August 29 – The Main Event with Bill Sbrogna and the Girls – 1:00

NUMBERS FROM MAY

Martha Washington Comes to Holden- 40

Instructional Cell Phone Classes - 49

Legal Presentation – 21

Hot Dog Bar/Radio Host/Root Beer Floats – 88

Out to Lunch Bunch – 18

Morning Glory Café – 224

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Sullivan expressed her frustration that the renaming of the building did not appear on the Town Meeting warrant. After a conversation with Selectman Herlihy and Town Manager Lukes she learned that it was Selectman LaVigne who was pushing for a process. Apparently that process was never finalized. Mr. Lukes had put it on the initial warrant – the BOS removed it. Chairman Sullivan conveyed her disappointment in the lack of communication. The COA Board stepped back under the assumption that the BOS was doing what they had promised. Now we need to wait, perhaps another year for a decision to be made. She offered to write a letter to the BOS informing them of our disappointment in their not following through. She will deliver it personally. The consensus of the Board was for to write the letter and deliver it. Assistant Town Manager Stephanie King said that Selectman LaVigne didn't feel it belonged on a town meeting warrant but rather should just require a public hearing. Stephanie will follow-up on where this stands.

NEW BUSINESS

Louise was asked the status of purchasing a carport for the vans. It is part of the FY23 capital budget. She will submit a Purchase Order for the carport in early July.

CITIZENS ADDRESS

Speaking under Citizens Address for this meeting was Bob Beck. He feels that in the not too distant future the Senior Center needs to be made larger. He distributed a hand out which included statistics showing growth projections of the elder population between now and 2050. He spoke about the importance of the Senior Center to provide services, programs and socialization for Holden's elder population. He spoke of the importance of informing the younger seniors about the center and what it can potentially mean to them as they age. He informed the Board that his hand out did not include the statistics of things such as staffing a larger building. He's concerned about losing the "institutional knowledge" that the present staff can offer, as the staff is an "older" staff. He said that while he realizes that a venture of this nature is most certainly a "process," he feels the time to start planning is now. He realizes that money could be an issue but he said there are grants that could be sought for assistance. He thanked the Board for their time.

In response, Chairman Sullivan thanked Mr. Beck for bringing this before the Council and for all the work he had done to this point. She feels that the COA Board should perhaps either re-distribute the survey they used a few years ago to see what's changed in the elder's view or create a new survey to determine wants or needs. Participation here at the Center is indeed increasing. Perhaps the needs of younger seniors aren't being served which is something we definitely need to look at. She said that in September they will re-look at the results of the previous survey and perhaps take a realistic look at Capital moneys available.

Our next meeting is Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

The meeting was closed at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise Charbonneau
Director, Senior Services