**Town of Boylston**

**Council on Aging**

**Meeting Minutes**

**December 2, 2020**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, November 2020 at 6pm

Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Time: 6:08 pm

Members Present: Dennis Goguen, Chairperson; Deborah Goodrich, Member; Warren Leach, Member; Laura Susanin, COA Coordinator

Absent: Kathy Lohnes, COA Assistant; Ed MacDonald, Member; David Wheeler, Member; Ozzie Sauer, Member

Guests: Brittany Blaney-Anderson

Minutes Approval: November 2020 minutes not approved at this time due to no quorum.

Announcements: Kathy delivered turkeys to Boylston seniors courtesy of the Wachusett Rotary Club. They will be offering canned hams in the month of December. The COA also worked with the Lions Club which delivered over 120 Thanksgiving meals to Boylston seniors. COA is assisting them now with Giving Tree programs. Laura is working on a December newsletter to send out.

**Old Business:**

Staffing – Laura expresses concern regarding hiring per diem drivers during COVID as demand for rides has decreased and van is only doing essential appointments at this time. Board agrees at this time to hold off on hiring per diem staff as training is a challenge during COVID. Laura will, however, reach out to other COA directors to see if they have trained van drivers interested in helping Boylston per diem.

**New Business:**

Budget/Expenses – new expenses are for payroll and fitness programs.

Program updates: The COA is concerned about elders’ social isolation during COVID and the winter months. We are looking at doing programs that connect seniors to residents, specifically students. The COA has talked with the National Honor Society about potentially doing a friendly phone calls or program where students interview residents and help to write their social histories. Laura/Kathy will continue to follow-up with the NHS about intergenerational programming. Dennis inquires if it would be possible to do Zoom for facetime visits between seniors and students. Discussion regarding obstacles to this option – ie seniors’ comfort with and/or access to technology. Questions of whether COA could loan out technology for this programming. Deb asks if the local cable access could do a demo for residents on how to use certain technology. Brittany states that it would be possible for WBAC to offer how to videos for residents. Laura will gage interest in program and f/u with board and WBAC. The COA has offered yoga equipment to residents to borrow and will set up day/time for pick up. Laura and Kathy will be making calls to high risk/isolated seniors to check on needs and to offer friendly phone calls.

Comments: Dennis inquires if the COA has received anything from the BOS regarding budgets for FY22. Laura states that she has not received any information at this time but will update Dennis when she does.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 6th, 2021 (via Zoom)

Adjournment: 6:34pm