**Town of Boylston**

**Council on Aging**

**Meeting Minutes**

**March 3, 2021**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, March 3, 2021

Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Time: 6:10 pm

Members Present: Dennis Goguen, Chairperson; Deborah Goodrich, Member; Ed MacDonald, Member; David Wheeler, Member; Laura Susanin, COA Coordinator; Kathy Lohnes, COA Assistant

Absent: Warren Leach, Member; Ozzie Sauer, Member

Guests: Brittany Blaney-Anderson (WBAC)

Minutes Approval: Need to still approve February minutes (will do 4/7 board meeting)

Announcements: COA March newsletter is printed and being prepared for mailing with hopes to send it out by this Friday. Master Plan survey responses are due by March 12.

**Old Business:**

Waiting to get response to COA FY22 proposed budget that was submitted in January. Ed asked if we know how much we are getting in Formula grant funds. Laura states that the funding has remained level for this current fiscal year ($12/senior). With 2020 Census results, we are hoping for formula grant allocation to increase next fiscal year.

Residents are continuing to participate in fitness programs over Zoom and WBAC. Brittany notifies COA that she has added an art class for Fridays at 2pm per a resident request. Laura will add this new class to her weekly email list. Kathy asks if residents without Charter can still access classes – Brittany explains that classes that are not from WBAC directly are only available if people have Charter but anything that WBAC tapes directly is available on vimeo.

Laura updates that joint MassSupport program with Boylston Public Library went well – had 4 participants; conversation and information was helpful.

**New Business:**

COA response to Covid Vaccine rollout: Laura had Zoom meeting with A.Steward, BOH, J.Flanagan, and M.Mecum to discuss vaccine rollout and how to assist Boylston seniors in getting appointments. M.Mecum organized volunteers from COA, Lions Club and BOH to make calls to seniors to assess vaccine needs. Those residents who needed assistance with scheduling vaccines were forwarded to Laura. Laura has a running list of residents who need assistance and has a group of approx. 12 volunteers who are helping to schedule. To date, about 100 seniors have been assisted in getting an appt.

FY21 budget: Laura read letter from ESWA

**Comments:**

Ed recommends that the Board and COA get an idea of how much seniors in town pay in taxes as a percentage of total town taxes. This percentage may give us leverage in advocating for more senior support etc.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 6, 2021 (via Zoom)

Adjournment: 6:45pm