**Town of Boylston**

**Council on Aging**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 7, 2021**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Time: 6:09 pm

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

Absent: Ozzie Sauer, Member; David Wheeler, Member; Ed Macdonald, Member

Guests: Brittany Blaney-Anderson (WBAC)

Minutes Approval: February and March minutes approved

Announcements: COA and volunteers have finished up scheduling vaccine appointments for the most part. Warren notifies board that the Legion will be meeting on 5/13 a t 7pm in the Town House and that Ozzie is working on future trips for seniors.

**Old Business:**

Waiting to get response to COA FY22 proposed budget that was submitted in January. Residents are continuing to do Zoom and WBAC fitness classes but are interested in returning to in-person programs. Board discusses bringing back residents in-person and decides to start slowly with one program to ensure it is done safely and smoothly. Talked about bringing back Zumba first. COA will seek input from TA and BOH regarding COVID protocols. COA will follow state guidelines and encourage residents to have their own chairs and wear masks and stay socially distanced. COA will bring hand sanitizer.

**New Business:**

Laura reviews options for COA office space – Town Hall spaced is asking to be used for other departments. Town is offering space in the LL of the Town House where Legion meets. Board questions whether leaving Town Hall is in best interest of COA. Warren expresses concern regarding safety of employees as Town House is unlocked and less people than at the Town Hall. Laura reviews that Fire Dept Chief resides at Town House and, in normal times, daytime programs are happening at Town House. Laura offers to set up meeting with Bob Bourassa and April Steward with board to look at space at Town House and further discuss options. The FY21 budget continues to be used for payroll and fitness programs – looking at possibility of needing larger items (ie copier) if COA moves to Town House. Volunteer appreciation will be planned for May or June – Laura will reach out to Bigelow regarding flowers and Kathy came up with idea of a “drive through” thank you with boxed lunches. Laura will contact Boylston Deli to find out options. A Zoom program with the Boylston library will be held on 4/22 regarding Russia and the COA is working on a scams presentation with the Worcester DA. Van is getting work done including new tires, tailpipe, and oil change. Laura is in contact with a potential per diem van driver.

**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, May 4 at 6pm – question whether board meeting can be in person vs Zoom. Per Brittany, BOS may do a “hybrid” type meeting in-person and using Zoom and she can notify us how it goes.

Adjournment: 6:45pm