**Town of Boylston**

**Council on Aging**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 7, 2021**

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, May 5, 2021

Location: Zoom (Virtual)

Time: 6:03 pm

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

Absent: Ozzie Sauer, Member

Guests: Brittany Blaney-Anderson (WBAC)

Minutes Approval: April minutes approved

Announcements: Most vaccines appointments have been scheduled for residents. The May/June COA newsletter will be sent out soon to residents. Warren asked if there is a blurb in the newsletter regarding the Senior Citizens Society which will start to meet again in September – Laura states that a blurb was put in and info given to people to contact Wilson McLaren with any questions. Laura attended the MCOA Small and Rural Conference via Zoom and it had some great information regarding “scaling up” COA services as pandemic winds down. EOEA has produced a guide to assist the COAs in returning to in-person programming.

**Old Business:**

COA should receive budget info for FY22 within the next week. Ed asked about Formula Grant for FY22 – Laura states that Formula Grant for FY22 will still be based on the 2010 census. Dennis asks about money for FY21 Formula Grant and Laura explains new regulations that money will now be carried over to the next FY. Laura states that Boylston will have very little if any money remaining from this year’s Formula Grant. Residents are continuing Zoom fitness classes. Discussion regarding bringing classes back to in-person – COA was looking to start with Zumba class in-person but may not be able to due to instructor availability. Questions about inside vs outside. Residents are expressing different comfort levels with the pandemic. Laura has reached out to BOH for input. COA will try outside classes to start but option is to move to inside at Town House now that it is reopen. Board agrees to doing Covid waiver with Laura explaining that some centers are and are not. Laura mentions COA appreciation lunch and Kathy’s idea for a drive-thru and board agrees. Plants will be donated by Bigelow and the Boylston deli will do boxed lunches. Date is set for June 15th. Van maintenance has been done with new tires, tail pipe, oil change and hinge for back door (due to broken hinge with wind). Board agrees to put in ad for van driver as we need per diem drivers. Office space: April Steward states the COA can stay in current office if needed. Laura discusses pros and cons of staying at Town Hall vs moving to Town House. Town Hall, the COA would be with other departments; Town House, the COA would be with the van, programs, etc. Town would make the Town House a welcoming space for seniors to meet up. Dennis speaks about history of trying to find a space for seniors. He states he feels that the Town House would make a statement to the town that space is needed for seniors. Ed asked about gym at Hillside – Kathy and Laura explain that the space is used by other groups. Laura explains that the COA wants to support other town groups including the legion. Ed asks for COA to find out the percentage of taxes paid by town seniors. Laura and Kathy explain process and will talk to Paul in Assessors. Laura discusses maybe meeting with the legion to further discuss. David agrees that Town House space may be a good way for the COA to show that it needs its on space. COA can do a survey to see what residents want to for the future of the COA. Laura explains to Warren about how the Senior Citizens Society would need to submit receipts for reimbursement. Upcoming programs over Zoom include Covid Scams and Covid Truths and Myths. Laura and Kathy working on Pine Ridge workshop to use Mass Cultural Council grant. Essential vs all van rides – as long as we have drivers, the board is fine with opening up van rides to nonessential.

**Comments:**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 2 at 6pm (may be in person or Zoom)

Adjournment: 6:56pm