

MINUTES
COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING -
DATE May 21, 2019

Present: Carolyn Bottum, Dan Boynton, Ben Horne, Wendy Kusik, Don Milan, Florence Montgomery, Kathy Ramon, Donna Rizzo, Dot Taylor, Dilla Tingley, Diana Chirita - liaison from Housing Commission

Minutes: The Minutes for the April 9 meeting were approved with one correction.

Calendar: Carolyn reviewed the highlights for the June calendar.

Director's Report:

Enhanced outreach resulted in 89 Lincoln households receiving **Fuel Assistance** this past winter. An increase over 35 the winter before. This benefit can become a gateway for other benefits.

Emily Morrison our new **Town Social Worker**, has only been with us 10 weeks and has interacted with 38 residents providing 188 office visits. It is clear that 12 hours per week is insufficient to meet the need. The grant ends in 2 years and we need to work toward having the Town accept the financial responsibility for these essential services.

The 2019 edition of **the Lincoln Community Resource Guide** has been published. It is on the Town website and will be distributed at Bemis, Town Offices and the Library. Our thanks to Susan Isbell and Marilyn Lewis for their work on its creation.

Getting the **Rental Assistance Program** off the ground has been complicated and labor intensive but great benefit will accrue to those who receive assistance. St Vincent DePaul will be asked if they will accept the Grant and write the checks. Individuals will apply to the COA,; we pass on the redacted information to SVdP. Forms are now being approved by our Town Counsel. Marketing will begin this summer and subsidies provided in the fall.

The **Cultural Council Events** were successful and well-attended: Stephen Collins doing *Herman Melville* and *Ogden Codman Jr. and Edith Wharton* which was cosponsored with Historic New England.

Eight of the ten new **Senior Tax Work-Off** positions have been filled and Terry Green and been hired as the **Work-Off Coordinator**. Her contacts with the schools may result in more positions for work-off in the schools.

Mental Health Clinics: Thanks to First Parish (and to Dan Boynton who spear-headed it) for the generosity in supporting these clinics. First Parishioners were inspired to provide the largest Easter Offertory ever to support this important service (\$6000 was raised). Three fully-subscribed clinics have been held and many attendees go on to continuing treatment. St Annes learned of the gift and is inspired to fund a way they can contribute.

Antiques Appraisal with Doug Stinson was a successful event. Ellen Raja had dug up a pewter tray on her property. Doug said it did not have monetary value but because of its historic interest should be displayed somewhere by the Town. All our collections of fine bone china are worthless in today's market.

Liaison Reports:

Trips: Prudential and Christian Science Mother Church trip was great. Oklahoma in June, and Isle of Shoals in July. A fall trip to Crane Estate is being planned.

Minuteman Senior Services: Fundraising continues. They received a \$60k grant for nutrition. The Rapsallion event was also a success and received great publicity on the local Cable Channel. There are discussions about how to deal with the fact that so many of the services they provide are “pass-through” services. The new Board Chair, Vito, has come on strong. The “By Your Side” program that assists seniors to stay at home is also doing fine.

SHINE: Emily and Abby’s aggressive outreach has generated more MA Health issues. There is concern that a major insurer may drop a popular plan in the fall.

Housing Commission: They are pleased that the Rental Assistance is Program will be getting off the ground. Emergency overnight housing is still of concern. There is a \$15k grant from the Commons but where to place those in need is an issue.

They have discussed whether to hire a consultant and whether they should join a regional housing consortium. Our three local groups continue to meet and work together: Housing Commission, Affordable Housing Trust and the Lincoln Foundation which oversees Battle Road Farm.

Strawberry Social: A sign-up for work slots was distributed.

The **June Board Meeting** will be on the 18th. At noon we will have a Joint Meeting with the Friends. Pizza will be served- \$5 contribution requested. Rhonda Swain is the new President of the FLCOA.

Submitted by Dilla