



Town of Fairhaven Council on Aging

Fairhaven Council on Aging • 229 Huttleston Ave, Fairhaven, MA 02719
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Fairhaven Council on Aging • Board Meeting Minutes February 13, 2023

Present: Martha Reed, Joan Mello, Susan Oiestad, Carol Burt, Robert Ryan, Lee Allaire

- 1.) The meeting was legally posted on February 7, 2023
- 2.) The meeting was called to order by Martha Reed at 9:05 am.
- 3.) Joan Mello made the motion to approve of the minutes from the November 14, 2022- December 12, 2022- and January 9, 2023. Carol Burt seconded, vote passes.

Financial Report:

COA Budget total: \$199,944.00

January Expenditures: \$19,175.88

Old Business:

- a. Social Day Update- Sally, the Program Coordinator, said there are now 14 enrolled in the program, halfway to full enrollment, and they are now on their third week. Anne Sylvia is the Activities Coordinator and she has been doing many fun crafts with them. There is an upcoming Tea Party for Valentine's Day.

New Business:

- a. 2 Board positions now open
 - i. After the loss of Mr. Oliveira, there are now two open positions.
- b. Annual Report for EOEA and Town of Fairhaven
 - i. Martha Reed reported that she had completed the annual town report as well as the report for EOEA. The Centers numbers are in line with the previous pre-COVID numbers. It is a very good indication that people are coming back. The COA provided over 10,000 units of service; more than half of the senior population is utilizing the centers services.
- c. Cultural Council Grant Partnerships for the COA
 - i. All 4 grants that were applied to have been approved. This grant will cover entertainers such as the Uncommon Lunch Group, Story Teller, Beth the Bag Piper and an Intergenerational program with the Belonging Committee.
- d. AARP Tax Preparation
 - i. Tax season has started as of February 7th. There are 16 appointments per day, which will total of 176 appointments. The appointments are fully booked, but there is a running a cancellation list.

- e. Social Day Report
 - i. Sally spoke earlier. Please see OLD BUSINESS- A.
- f. Update of Board of Directors contact information
 - i. All Board Members updated their contact information.

Director's Report

1. Senior Center/Program Utilization:
474 unduplicated persons attended events at the Senior Center in December for a total of 1,294 "swipes" for events last month. SHINE counselors continue to be very busy, especially helping clients recertify for Mass Health. AARP Tax Prep services begin in February and all 176 appointments have been booked; a cancellation list for appointments has been started.
2. Transportation Utilization: 197 Rides were provided to 69 seniors in January.
3. Volunteers: 13 Persons volunteered over 350 hours at the Senior Center in December. The value of these volunteer hours is over \$11,500. The center is now welcoming volunteers back to help.
4. Community Needs: The most significant community needs remain housing and food security. 4 persons were assisted with housing applications and information; 8 seniors were helped with accessing SNAP benefits. Due to the extra pandemic benefits provided single senior households in March, we have been working to ensure that clients are receiving the maximum amount of benefits possible. Staff has also attended many webinars hosted by DTA, UMASS Medical, and EOEA regarding certification of medical expenses which can help increase SNAP benefits.
5. In-person events: Both Senior Supper Clubs were held in January and both were well attended. More people are interested in attending social events, as opposed to educational events, so we are looking to add in additional opportunities for socialization over the next few months. These include movie matinees and more live performances.
6. Social Day: Social Day re-opened on January 31st, and we have 12 persons fully intake at this time. Sally Bourke will present a verbal update at the Board meeting, and will begin preparing a written report next month. Finances will be reviewed after 6 months to see if it is feasible to add more days.
Board Recruitment: With the loss of Jack Oliveira this month, we are down to 5 members. If anyone knows of someone that would be a good addition to the board, please have them reach out to me.

Next Board of Directors Meeting

The next board meeting will take place on Monday March 13, 2023

Robert Ryan made the motion to adjourn at 9:25am, Lee seconded. Vote passes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jocelyn Bowers
Principal Office Assistant - Fairhaven COA