**COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD**

**Minutes**

**March 15, 2021 at 10:30**

**Members Present** Chair Nancy Butler, Secretary Michele Llanes, Dottie Martel, Inez Murphy, Mary Lou White

**Members Absent:** Jackie Freitas, Shirley Martin

**Guests Present**:John Traynor, Colleen Thompson, Jean Pacheco

**Friends of COA Present:** Helen Reynolds, Cindy Bloomquist

1. **Opening:** Chair Nancy Butler opened the meeting by reading the Governor’s order which allows public meetings to be held via zoom.
2. **Minutes:** February 2021 approved as written.

3. **Old Business:**

1. COA regular programs are doing well.
2. Colleen and Jean attended the GBFB Food Pantry Safety course and received certificates of completion.
3. GBFB Chart of Food Expiration Dates will be hung in food pantry.

4. **New Business:**

1. Paid Warrants reported by Jean
2. The possibility of Cardio/Fit class outside at the Upland Club. A fee of $5.00 per class for those attending.
3. For April Newsletter - KKatie’s restaurant is coming to Plympton. There will be limited seating. They are looking into the possibility of outside seating. Also, add Cindy Bloomquist to the Friends’ list.
4. Colleen will check on the Cultural Grant funds for programs. When do we apply for the next round? John suggested that CT contact Nathaniel Sides of the Cultural Committee.
5. Report of the Friends of COA, Treasurer Helen Reynolds – They have reimbursed $300 to seniors for snow removal. There is $4,477.98 remaining in the Friends’ checking account. They are thinking about having some sort of fundraiser.
6. Food Pantry Report – Jean reported that 12 families/19 people were served in March.

5. “What’s going on in the Town” - Presentation by Selectman John Traynor

1. The Board of Selectmen is exploring live TV broadcast of meetings, as well as Zoom, for all boards and committees.
2. The retirement of Library Director Debbie Batson, Treasurer/Collector Colleen Morin and Town Accountant Barbara Gomez was mentioned. The Board of Library Trustees has formed a search committee consisting of seven residents.
3. A marijuana cultivation business is looking to locate in the Industrial Zone. The conversation with the BOS is just beginning.
4. The Dennett school is resuming in-class school on 3/22.
5. There is a small cemetery on Route 106 – The Old North Cemetery. There are 68 graves. John (BOS) have talked with the owner of the property. They are hoping to get the cemetery cleaned up and then maintained by the Town. The previous clean up was done as an Eagle Scout project.
6. The Board wonders when we will be able to resume in person meetings. This is up to the Board of Health and the control of COVID 19 in the State.
7. Traffic Safety Zones – Main Street at Ring Road, Prospect Street and Parsonage Road are 20 miles per hour.

H. Town has nearly 3,000 residents, 1/3 are seniors.

I. Town House roof is in poor condition.

J. Technology upgrades are needed within the Town hall. Acquire help from Tech student

K Roads are in need of repair. Were created by paving over logs. As the logs naturally

break down the roads sink (by bogs on Main Street) These roads need major rebuilding.

In the meantime, they will be patched and resurfaced. Major road work will be done in

phases.

L. Town has over 120 volunteers on boards and committees to help keep thing running.

M. Fire station inadequate for size of new trucks.

N. Christine Joy is looking into affordable housing. Town has 5 suitable lots. Hopes are

Habitat for Humanity will be of help.

O. Sysco taxes which is 35% goes into a capital account.

P. There will be a Town meeting warrant article to increase the stiped for the Director of

Elder Affairs.

6. Next Board Meeting: April 12, 2021, 10:30 a.m.

Adjournment 11:45

Minutes taken by Michele Llanes, transcribed by COA staff.