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By Jim Alexander - Asst. Town Clerk at 9:46 am, Jul 31, 2023

MAYNARD COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

Minutes

June 20, 2023

Meeting called to order at 2:00 p.m.

In attendance: Paul Guthrie, Mary Ann Shields, Mary Mitzcavitch, Jan Rosenberg, Diane Wasiuk and Amy Loveless (COA Director).

Minutes from May 16 were approved. Amy will correct the spelling of Mary Mitzcavitch's last name.

Public Comments: none.

Correspondence: none.

COA Director's Report:

Rep. Kate Hogan submitted an earmark (\$35,000) for the UMASS Gerontology Institute Needs Assessment Study. The funds are directed to go to Friends of Maynard Seniors. Next steps to be determined once the state budget has been finalized. \$35,000 from the Town's free cash has been designated for a "senior center/any assessment to study the needs of the senior population" and will be encumbered in a COA account.

Amy received communication from Caitlin Coyle (UMASS Boston Gerontology Institute) that she has the Maynard needs assessment study start date "penciled in" for January 2024 with the survey in the spring, qualitative pieces happening over the summer and a final report delivered by the end of the year. Amy will be following up with Caitlin to inform her the funding is now/soon to be in place.

Amy noted that the letter to the Tri-Board (Select Board, Finance Committee and School Committee) included Paul Guthrie's signature as a COA Board member but the COA Board by-laws state that "no member of the Board shall make written or oral representations for the Board unless authorized by the Board vote." Paul reported he had received the letter from Peg Brown and Deb Roussell on Friday afternoon before the Tri-Board meeting on Tuesday, May 30 and did not have time to consult with anyone due to the holiday weekend. Discussion ensued around the importance of the role of the COA Board member and the need to be clear if speaking as a Board member or a resident.

Amy informed the Board that Superintendent Brian Haas reached out to her about a forum for the seniors to be able to ask questions about the Green Meadow Elementary School project. Amy suggested to Brian, that since Natasha Rivera and Mary Brannelly just held a forum in April, that another forum be considered for September when more conclusive details about the project are available.

Amy provided links to the Tri-Board meeting PowerPoint presentation and the Green Meadow Elementary School HVAC System Selection Online Survey Results to the Board. Amy will forward the link to the Tri-Board meeting on YouTube when it has been uploaded. Amy will also forward links to the Green Meadow Elementary School Project Community Forum Presentation and the FAQ's.

Senior Center Focus Group Update: any updates to be included in the Roundtable Discussion at 3:00.

Old Business/New Business: none.

Roundtable Discussion with COA Board, Friends of Maynard Seniors, and the Senior Center Focus Group (3:00 p.m.)

In attendance at the Roundtable Discussion with the Friends of Maynard Seniors and the Senior Center Focus Group: COA Board members, Liz Drury (Friends), Mary Ann Bassett (Friends), Linda Cetrone (Friends), Paula Copley (Friends and Senior Center Focus Group), Deb Roussell (Friends and Senior Center Focus Group), Mark Koenig (Senior Center Focus Group), Jack MacKeen (Senior Center Focus Group), Jon Cramer (Senior Center Focus Group), and Peg Brown (Senior Center Focus Group). Guest: Armand Diaberkian.

Areas of discussion included, but not limited to:

- Sharing the mission/goals of each group (all groups did so).
- It was noted that the Finance Committee spoke at their last meeting about a potential senior center moving downtown as a potential anchor with leasing making the most sense (reported by Peg Brown). A link to this meeting will be shared with the group when it becomes available (Peg Brown).
- It was proposed that the Finance Committee should know more about each group and that perhaps a place on an upcoming agenda could be included for introductions (Peg Brown).
- Strategies to increase focus on seniors' needs including a larger space with improved access were discussed. Ideas included more diverse representation from members of all three groups at town meetings, members of the group individually reaching out to members of the Select Board and other town committees, and consideration of an RFQ in order to be able to further discuss the proposal from Mill & Main. The COA Board recommended that Amy Loveless speak with Greg Johnson about this.
- Ideas about approach to space needs included determining what is financially feasible for the town, how to inform the Select Board/Town Administrator what is needed on a financial level, how to mesh with the budget preparations, creating a timeline, etc.
- The idea of a citizens' petition was raised in order to create more awareness of the seniors' needs for a larger space among other needs (by Jack MacKeen). The Senior Center Focus Group volunteered to develop the citizens petition in preparation for the October Special Town Meeting.

- Development of a document which defined the mission and goals of each group on one page was proposed.
- The roles of each group and their members were discussed in relation to verbal or written representations. The group at large felt it was important to be clear when speaking as a member of a board or group and then as a resident. Noted examples of how Select Board members are clear when speaking as residents at public meetings. The COA Board by-laws are clear that board members are not to present oral or written representations as a board member without being authorized by board vote.

It was collectively decided that the discussion was very productive and that more roundtables would be scheduled.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.