

**Billerica Council on Aging  
25 Concord Road, Billerica MA  
Board Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2021 Zoom Meeting**

**Present: Jean Patel Bushnell, Dan Burns, Richard Carroll, Joan DiOrio, Phil Doiron, Barbara Flaherty, Bill Neeb, Mary Riley, Mike Rosa, John Pellegrino, Stephen Strykowski, and Barbara Wittenhagen**

**The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Board Chair, Joan DiOrio, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the sick and departed.**

**A motion was made to accept the minutes of the February meeting as printed and distributed to the Board. M/Mike Rosa S/Dan Burns. With all members in favor the motion passed.**

**The floor recognized Ms. Jean Bushnell to present the Directors update, including:  
BCOA provides**

- environment encouraging social connections.
- Range of Human Services needs and referrals enabling seniors to live at home
- Activities providing sense of involvement, contribution, and achievement
- Community Partnerships providing support for seniors
- Innovative Programming
- Eliminating ageism and aging biases
- Leverage intergenerational potential.
- Community health and wellness center
- Programs for younger seniors

**Operations**

- Presentation of BCOA fiscal budget
- Covid Vaccination scheduling and transportation service.
- Update on Senior Tax Work Off Program ending February 28.
- Snow Closure
- Mary Caprio postponing retirement
- 1 Year anniversary for Carolyn Savio, Health and Community Program Coordinator

**Community Partnerships**

- AARP Income Tax Aide Program serving 300 patrons
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Health Series with ESMV nutrition expert airing on BATV

**Programs**

- Review of March Schedule
- Temporary suspension of Food Programs “Discussion ensued on how to physically support John Pellegrino’s efforts in procuring provisions”
- Planning of indoor Bingo, target start date June 1<sup>st</sup>
- Memory Café resume March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Town has donated tent for outdoor programs

**Other**

**1. Sustainability**

- Friends of the BCOA
  - Review of Treasury holdings
  - Comparison December 2020/Feb 28, 2021
  - Success of Black Tie Bingo brought together by both Boards
  - Have a Heart mailing appeal
  - Lack of fundraising since March 2020
  - Donation by Bob Kinsman/Mary Camilleri
  - Donation by Billerica Lodge of Elks #2071
  - Outlook article generating patron donations

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- FCOA financing March performer
- Driven Funds Acquisition FY2020
  - Elder Services of MV Covid financing infusion
  - Lahey Burlington support of exercise programs
  - Covid related programs
  - Combined support over \$40,000
- Capital Needs Assessment
  - Presentation of need for new building
  - Presentation planned for architectural needs
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2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair Rich Carroll raised the topic of requesting discretionary funds from the Friends Board. Rich and Secretary Bill Neeb have drafted a letter. The letter was shared and reviewed with the Board. Recommendations were made by Board members on proposed additions, changes, and deletions to the letter. During the discussion member John Pellegrino summarized his verbal communications with Friends Chair Nick Rosa and vice Chair Mary Camilleri about this topic back in December. Further discussion ensued on how to proceed from this point. Secretary Bill Neeb to send letter to members for further input on a rewrite.

Billerica Lions donated Easter Bunny gifts to Billerica seniors.

Secretary Bill Neeb reminded members that applications need to be submitted to Town Selectmen's office for those with expiring terms.

Chair Joan DiOrio extended appreciation to Phil Doiron and Barbara Flaherty for reaching out to Board regarding Board positions for the coming year.

Jean Bushnell raised the question of Selectmen's right to vote on the Board. Mike Rosa to research

Motion to Adjourn M/Mike Rosa S/Rich Carroll, Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned, 6:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted



William F. Neeb, Secretary