

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

June 22, 2022, 5:30 pm

Present: Jean Patel Bushnell, Richard Carroll, Phil Doiron, Barbara Flaherty, Bill Neeb, John Pellegrino, Mary Riley, Mike Riley, Mike Rosa, Marguerite Massey, and Mary Jones.

Absent: Gerald Johnson, Kim Conway, and Stephen Strykowski

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Chair Mary Riley, 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 May 11, 2022, meeting. M/Phil Doiron S/Richard Carroll. Motion passed.

Introduction of new Board members, Marguerite Massey and Mary Jones.

Director Jean Bushnell presented an update of COA activities for FY 2022: COA membership estimated at 2,000 patrons. Serve up to 150 patrons/day.

Positive impact:

- Changing perception as place for old people
- Helping seniors to be their best selves physically and mentally.
- Reinforce self-image
- In any given year 51% of our capacity comes from volunteers
- Manage the town's Tax Work off program, attracting younger seniors
- New programming with the library
- Improve Front desk first impressions and adding efficiency with new hire.
- Back-up support for Veterans through our Outreach/Social Services Group
- Funding: FY2022: Town – 61%, Elder Affairs – 13%, Respite – 13%, LRTA – 10% and Misc. grants – 3%
- STRONG TEAM has sustained us through the agony and strain of the past 2+ years
- Our Board Of Directors is aligned with our needs for today and tomorrow.
- The Friends now under the leadership of Mary Camilleri.

Existing Challenges:

- To win the conviction of need to be funded at a higher level.

Who COA is:

- Community-based supports and services (CBSS) designed to help older adults remain safely in their homes Industry-wide these include nutritional support, counseling services, assistance with housing, finances, home safety, legal assistance, case management services and respite services for caregivers.

- The retirement of Pat Zapert on July 22, 2022 will be a great loss. Pat over her 10-year tenure has taken on a range of operational responsibilities to assist staff and the Director.

A long-range plan review was presented by Barbara Flaherty including:

- Staffing by union and non-union employees.
- Image and Branding in concert with advancement of Intergenerational center
- Promote image of COA to town residents
- COA Board supports building an Intergenerational facility, while being aware of alternative methods of growth and expansion.
- Revenue and budget, focus effort on increasing both with support of Friends Board
- Collaboration of partnerships with both the Library and Boys/Girls Club
- Enhanced COA programmatic mix with partners to promote intergenerational offerings.
- Increase Health and Wellness initiatives by developing relationships with local health agencies with goal of assisting Hoarding Task Force, expanding support groups, increasing resources for Family Caregivers and the Dementia Friendly movement.
- Expand transportation with increased capacity for more non medical trips
- Focus on Facility improvements both short and long term.

Nomination committee formed for September elections with members Phil Doiron, Rich Carrol, and Barbara Flaherty.

Next meeting, September 14th, 2022 at 5:30 pm

Motion to Adjourn made by Bill Neeb S/Phil Doiron
M/Passed

Respectfully Submitted



William Neeb, Recoding Secretary