

Concord Council on Aging Board meeting minutes
January 7, 2019

Present: Ginger Quarles, Michael Rudd, Carole Cushing, Arthur Alcares, Margaret Hoag (Liaison member), Sharyn Lenhart, Carol Ann Hannan, Christina Kendrick, and Ann Schummers

Absent: Kristin Nelson (Associate member), Patty Keane, and Milton Cohen

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm.

Minutes: The minutes were duly approved as written.

Minuteman Senior Services Report:

Margaret reported on the December meeting since the January meeting has been postponed. During that meeting we met Lisa Gurgone, the new lobbyist for MassHomeCare and she discussed the legislative priorities: increasing pay for home health aides and Personal Care Assistance programs, allowing spouses to be paid as a PCA, addressing workforce issues, addressing the issues with the protective services payment schedule, small group homes for seniors. The Executive Office of Elder Affairs has been demoted from cabinet level to a department under Health and Human Services.

Disability Commission Report:

The Commission has not met.

Concord After 60:

The group had a wonderful Holiday Party with approximately 40 guests. We are considering advertising to attract more seniors. We have invited a speaker on hearing loss for the February meeting.

Director's Report:

- Nicole Saia has been hired as the new Social Service Supervisor. She will be working 28 hours a week which is 10 hours more than Sally Lopez worked.
- New van arrived and is on the road. The new van is a ten passenger van with a wheelchair lift. It was purchased with town funds. The van purchased in 2005 was traded in.
- Ginger will speak about the COA to the Rotary Club on March 7th.
- Ginger is still looking for snow shovelers that seniors could hire during the winter.
- HWCC update: Out to bid for air circulation (handler) units. The first set of bids were too expensive so it is out to bid again.
- Budgets have come back from the Town Manager's office. Ginger's budget was mostly approved. They have also left in the full time funding for the Social Service Supervisor even though Nicole is starting as part time. There are some additional driver hours. We will review the budget as a group at the March board meeting.
- A position for an HVAC person has been created. Currently each town department hires contractors for repairs separately. A dedicated town employee will save money.
- The Community Chest grant has been written.

New Business:

Concord was designated as an Age Friendly Community. A requirement for keeping the designation is to develop a project related to seniors. We have not heard anything about a group which will be putting together the plan.

Concord's Long Range Plan won the State Award from the American Association of Town Planners for the best long range plan.

Concord is hiring a new town manager. There will be a listening meeting on Wednesday January 16th at 1:00pm, for the seniors to contribute their thoughts concerning a new town manager.

The AARP Tax program will start up in mid-February.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:20pm.

The next meeting will be Monday, February 4, 2019 at 5:30pm.