

WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE
Minutes – January 11, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am on the Weston COA Zoom application.

Present: Marge Ackerman, Kristen Frady, Vida Goldstein, Peter Mitsakos, Mignonne Murray, John McCahan, Prather Palmer, Shirley Small-Rougeau, Dianne Sullivan.

Absent: Frank Hillery, Susan Wagner, Teresa Young.

1. John read the following statement:

“Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Weston will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings.”

2. The minutes of December 7, 2021 were approved with one typographical correction.

3. There were no residents’ comments.

4. Old Business

4a. Programming for common health issues. The “common health issue” programs are scheduled through the spring. A dermatologist, Dr. Daniela Kroshinsky, contacted by Vida, will be speaking on common skin disorders, and a neurologist, Dr. Oleg Yerstein, contacted by Prather, will be speaking on Alzheimer’s disease including the newer, controversial drug, aducanumab. At this point, no additional ‘common health issue’ programs are being contemplated.

Prather noted that the ‘No Surprises Act’ that addresses unexpected medical bills has just gone into effect. It is not comprehensive: ambulance billing is notably absent. When the regulations are fully implemented it may be useful to produce an informative program.

4b. Social Justice Working Group. Shirley described the meeting of January 3rd at which Ms. La Toya Rivers, METCO Director and High School Liaison, spoke with the group. The discussion was interesting and informative. A significant point that came across was the desire of students to be able to go home at the end of the day and the infrequency of transportation to make that possible. John noted that Ms. Rivers was not asked how the SJWG and COA might be of value to the METCO program. Since Ms. Rivers is being invited back, that question may then be asked. A discussion ensued re transportation. Could the COA bus be made available? The last school bus leaves after the last practice of the day, but it’s uncertain if additional, earlier buses also make the trip. Vida reiterated the idea that a grandparent’s hosting program might help. John raised the question of how we might further engage the older adult community of Weston. The next SJWG meeting is February 7th at 3:00 pm.

4.c. Further discussion on future programming. Vida suggested a tour of the Ted Kennedy Library; Kristen is setting this up. Vida noted that housing issues and scams continue to be relevant. The acting chief of police will be talking about scams. A housing fair for the fall remains a continuing consideration. The committee discussed financial considerations of housing options, both as ways in which the financing of housing are structured and ways in which older adults may structure their personal finances to afford what they need. The most effective means of presenting these issues are not immediately clear. Mignonne, Kristen and Joyce McSweeney will further discuss the possibilities.

5. Scheduling and administrative matters. There was no business under this item.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am on Tuesday February 8, 2022 by Zoom. **(N.B. The meeting date was subsequently changed to February 22 at 10:00 am.)** The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 am.

Submitted by John McCahan