

Council on Aging Minutes – February 5, 2024

Present: Chr.K.Donelan,J.Shapiro,J.Semuels,T.Olson,E.Sullivan,A.P
aschal,J.Morrison,P.Callahan,M.Scali

Absent:T. Dukas, C.Lai

I. meeting called to order at 7 pm by Chair K. Donelan

2. **P.Garvin-Town Administrator-discussed:** The Override vote
on April 5th and what happens if it does not pass?

E. Sullivan pointed out that the COA Budget is the lowest of all Town departments

J. Morrison stated that the Volunteer Coordinator makes things happen!

T. Olson-questioned the effect of the loss of a social worker.

K, Donelan- said that R. Epstein and G. Lubien would be willing to talk about the
Override.

J. Semeuls stated these 2 positions are very important-The importance of the
Social Worker is very important!!

P. Garvin said if we have any questions and concerns let her know.

3. **K. Donelan** cannot circulate emails to the Board therefore we would have to
schedule another meeting about the budget.

(B. Fitts will post amended minutes.)

4. **Senior Concerns: M. Scali**

How to educate the Seniors on the Override.

(Seniors are afraid to express their opinions-we have a suggestion box they can
use)

Fitness Room-one of the tread mills is out of order.

E. Sullican asked the cost of each project (Hockey Rink and Library).

We are working on a new check in machine.

We have 3 TVs which have upcoming events!

The number of Seniors in Belmont---2 years ago was 23% over 60 years old (
K.Donelan-State of Mass). The number of Seniors in Town is going down. They
are moving!

T.Olson-a member of the Housing Trust-is concerned about the Seniors living at
Sherman Gardens (they will have to be relocated--a Social Worker will be needed
to help them.

P, Callahan-stated we have 4,012 Seniors and 4,359 students in the schools! The
COA Budget is \$400k and the Schools -

\$50 - \$60 million!! (Schools have 3 **Social Workers.**)

J. Shapiro-Springwell rep- they are federally funded, some private meals etc.

K. Donelan-Concerns about contacting instructors. Cannot give out personal info, must leave a message and have them get back to the person.

COA-needed a liaison person representing the COA-DEITC Committee --K. Donelan was elected.

-5. **Assistant Director-P. Ellinword**

Lots of events, entertainment for February-the website is growing! K. Donelan- Do we have access-Belmont Voice can we

write articles of the local paper? At our next meeting we welcome ideas for writing a column?

6. **Director-pro-tem-B. Fitts**

Staff is taking care of the baseline needs. ADA concerns.

Kitchen is ok with outlets, freezer, and refrigerator.

Found gas leaks-have to light every single burner on the gas stove when needed -shall we swap it out?

Dishwasher is fixed

J. Shapiro- is there a private place for Counseling ?

Tax- all taxes will be in Classroom A from Feb. 15th to April 15th.

(K. Donelan is grateful the punch list is well underway!

7. J. Semeuls- Question on cameras in the big room? Badges on employees no names just Library or COA. (a union issue)

We should let the citizens know we are saving money for the Town by allowing the Library to be at the Senior Center.

8. On Feb. 15th at 2pm-meeting with the working group of the Library and COA.

B. Fitts is working with the Town Accountant-

Parking has been a problem-too many cars-B. Fitts is working with the Police department to keep car parking available.

Bay Path and Springwell have 22 towns and cities.

9, Friends-Transportation funds have helped with funding. Friends has 16 Board members- and 113 volunteers!

10. J. Morrison- meeting with the Select Board to talk about the Age-Friendly Committee and their work.

11..B.Fitts- Town Administrator is not making the cuts the B.O.S is looking at the Town as a whole. We have to wait to appoint a new Director until the override **vote**.

Suggestion: invite Mark Paollio and Roy Epstein to our next meeting. (Staff is worried about their jobs.)

12. Staff Appreciation Luncheon will be Friday March 22 at Noon.

13. Meeting adjourned at 8:57pm

Maryann Scali, Secretary for February 2024.