

TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
SELECT BOARD AND COUNCIL ON AGING
Final
September 29, 2020
SHEFFIELD SENIOR CENTER
10:00 am

Board of Selectmen Present: Renee Wood
 Martin Mitsoff
 Robert Kilmer

Board of COA Nadine Hawver
 Dorris Van Deusen
 Michelle Harwood
 Dick Goodwin
 John Gilligan
 Gillian Hettinger
 Sherry Graybeal
 David Smith

Absent: Eileen Clarke

Others Present: Kathie Loring, Executive Director
 Elaine Ireland, Assistant to Director
 Rhonda LaBombard
 Claudia Martin
 Barbara Delmolino

Selectman Renee Wood called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

DISCUSSION ON OPENING THE SENIOR CENTER:

Executive Director Kathie Loring discussed some concerns regarding the opening of the Senior center at this time as well as some recommendations for compliance with state regulations for COVID-19 if we decide to start to open up the center. Most COA's in the state are not opening at this time for indoor activities. If we were to offer activities the two that we may be able to manage with our space would be exercise classes and Bingo. Exercise classes would be limited to nine participants and the instructor. We would have people fourteen feet apart and at this distance they would not be required to wear a mask. There would be no sharing of equipment and would need to follow all requirements for hand washing and distancing while in the building. When away from their marked seat they would have to wear a mask. Martin stated BOH requires doors and windows be open for air flow. Bingo seems to be another activity we can accommodate in a similar manner.

- Renee inquired if there were any Board of Health concerns: Dave expressed no concerns as long as there was a slow start to opening. Martin is in agreement with the plan submitted to

the board of Health by Kathie including a COVID-19 screening, and waiver to be completed by participants. He also felt a slow and steady opening would be desirable.

- Kathie inquired of Martin how many new cases of COVID before the center would need to potentially shut down again. Martin said one case would be cause for alarm and two cases would be cause for serious concern and probable cause to close. Nadine asked for clarification as to if these numbers would be local to the Senior center as opposed to the town. Martin clarified this to be the case.
- Renee asked for clarification for a fall start date. Kathie said a potential start date would be October 5th. For this to happen there needs to be arrangements made with exercise instructors. Bingo may be able to start in another week. Kathie said we could potentially hold one class each day.
- Renee inquired about COVID screening. Kathie mentioned there is a waiver by COA we have fashioned after that each participant would need to complete every visit.
- Michelle mentioned the Yoga class and Breath and movement would like to move inside by October 1 because of the changing weather at the pavilion.
- Dick voiced concern the Seniors are missing out on socializing with others and he feels it is important to get them back together as soon as possible.
- John Gilligan voiced concern with the timing, given the recent opening of schools and spike in cases recently. He suggested looking at the situation in a month from now after the schools have been back in modified session for some time.
- Michelle expressed her frustration with not being able to exercise indoors. Dorris suggested everyone be tested for COVID. Sherry thought each person should be able to make an individual decision as they were already getting together in groups and following guidelines.
- Gillian asked if people would be wearing masks during exercise. Kathie answered Gillian that they were not required because of the 14 foot distance but were certainly an individual choice.
- Rhonda asked about small groups of 4-5 people visiting. Kathie mentioned that Great Barrington is holding a discussion group indoors where 4-5 seniors can sit 6' apart with masks on for a maximum of ½ hour to 45 minutes.
- Michelle inquired about Pittsfield meals. Kathie explained this is for homeless people who don't have a place to take their meal but otherwise it is take and go like our program.
- Nadine expressed she felt the meeting was productive and she liked the plan outlined by Kathie and Elaine to move forward.
- Renee inquired about contact tracing. Kathie said we are doing contact tracing now and will continue to do this in the future. Renee asked if the center needed any protective equipment. Kathie said we may need a barrier for the reception area. She suggested more cleaning supplies.
- Bob asked about air purification this winter when it is too cold for open windows. Kathie said Carlson has recently cleaned the filters and we are on a maintenance schedule.
- Dorris asked about crafts downstairs. Kathie said for now that is not in the plan.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40

Respectfully submitted by,
Elaine Ireland
Assistant to the Director

Documents Reviewed:
Minutes