

TOWN OF SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL ON AGING
Final
April 13, 2021
SHEFFIELD SENIOR CENTER
10:15 am

Board Members Present: Eileen Clarke, Chairperson
Nadine Hawver
Gillian Hettinger
Michelle Harwood
Sherry Greybeal
John Gilligan
Dave Smith

Absent: Dorris Van Deusen
Dick Goodwin

Others Present: Kathie Loring, Executive Director
Elaine Ireland, Assistant to Director
Rhonda LaBombard

Chairperson Eileen Clarke called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the Minutes of March 9, 2020 by Nadine and seconded by Michelle. Approved unanimously.

DISCUSSION REGARDING SENIOR CENTER OPENING:

Eileen would like to see the Senior Center Open. She said with the air purifiers and doors open we should be able to resume activities. She thanked Kathie and Elaine for all their help with vaccines as well as Meals on Wheels, transportation and all the time put in to help the community.

Kathie discussed possibly adding some activities such as exercise and Bingo and maybe crafts with the approval of the Health Department and the selectmen. The plan for exercise would be nine participants and the instructor as we were doing before. We would hope to do this without masks for exercise keeping the fourteen foot distance but masks would need to be worn for other activities in the building

Gillian said she had done some research about other COA's opening without the approval from the Health Department and town selectmen. She said she would share this information in an email with the board to be discussed at the next meeting. She felt we could open at 50% capacity and would like to have a date for reopening. She stated that Covid-19 cases were trending down.

Michelle mentioned BCBS recognized senior centers as health and fitness centers.

Eileen thanked Kathie and Elaine for their help at the center. She stated that she did not feel she was able to do her job as a chairman over the past year and felt she didn't receive support from the Board

of Health and selectmen in regards to the Senior Center. She put in her resignation and said her decision had nothing to do with Kathie and Elaine.

DIRECTOR ITEMS: Kathie said we have helped around four hundred people get their first vaccination and one hundred fifty for their second shot. We continue to help with meals, van rides and meals to be delivered to seniors, organized with Christ Trinity Church. We have a volunteer student who made St. Patty's and Easter cards for the seniors.

CHAIRMAN ITEMS: Vice Chair Nadine picked up where Eileen left off:

Nadine announced Claudia was to be moving to Florida and she would like to see a letter drafted to thank Claudia for all her help over the years with the Friends and the fundraising efforts she initiated for finishing the lower level of the building. Eileen will be filling the position for Claudia. Michelle made a motion to draft a letter to Claudia. John Second. Nadine will draft the letter.

MEMBER ITEMS: John thanked Kathie and Elaine for their help with the vaccinations. Michelle also expressed her thanks and shared a message on behalf of Dick who was not able to attend the meeting. Dick eloquently shared his sentiments about the value the senior center has had for him personally and his desire to return soon as a volunteer and to once again help with Bingo. Michelle questioned the HIPPA laws pertaining to asking the status of people's vaccination. She also inquired of Gillian if she would be able to share the information she found pertaining to other COA's opening without consent from the Health Department or selectmen in the town. Gillian said she could share the information in an email for future discussion.

Sherry asked if we would be able to meet in person for our next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Rhonda said it is possible to meet in person with social distancing and mask for board meetings indoors but this would not pertain to public meeting. Also it would be possible to meet outdoors under the pavilion and this could potentially include the public if CDC guidelines were followed. Rhonda said asking people about their vaccination status is not allowed and disallowing people to participate in activities because of their vaccination status would not be an option. She expressed her thanks to Kathie and Elaine for their help with the ongoing outreach to the seniors in the community as well as the efforts to ensure eligible people are able to receive appointments for their vaccinations.

Nadine moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 am, seconded by Michelle. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by,

Elaine Ireland
Assistant to the Director

Documents Reviewed:
Minutes