

**Meeting of the Northborough Council on Aging  
Feb. 9, 2021 5:00 Senior Center**

*As the hub for all aspects of healthy aging, the mission of the Northborough Council on Aging/Senior Center is to enrich and enhance the lives of older adults.*

- 1. Call to Order:** A meeting of the Council on Aging of the Town of Northborough was called to order at 5:10 PM via Zoom by Adrienne Cost, Chair with the following also present and introduced:

Linda Cragin, Member	Lee Beavers, Member
Jerry Anderson, Member	Joan Frank, School Committee Liaison
Muriel Swenor, Member	Kerrie Martinek, Friends
Virginia Simms George, Member	Liz Tretiak, Director

The following COA members were not present: Phylis Muthee, Member, Tim Kaelin, Board of Selectman

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes for the November 2020 meeting were approved.

**3. Friends Report**

Kerrie Martinek provided a report on the Fund Drive to collect textiles, clothes, etc. with funding from Savers. This is postponed due to the Senior Center being used as a vaccination site. Still looking for ideas for fund raising. The Annual Appeal is going well – the presentation was great. An appeal to businesses is somewhat less successful. Business have supported the senior center/Friends when asked for specific asks. There may also be opportunities to collaborate with churches and perhaps also seek funding from their mission funds.

**4. Chair's (Director's) Report**

First COVID vaccination clinic on last Friday. Notification about the vaccine was shared and filled within 40 minutes. The form is not helpful nor user friendly. Kristin Black, the town's Health Agent has been great to work with. The Senior Center received a fridge for storage and has hooked it up to the generator. Whittier Rehab has vaccines that need to be used tomorrow and COA drivers are now eligible. The state does not want to do small clinics anymore.

A new van driver has been hired and is on board. The van drivers will be offered training to better serve those with dementia.

Liz and Jocelyn will sign up for Dementia Champion training, so they are now trained and certified to teach others.

MCOA has shared that Gov. Baker proposed a 25% cut to the Formula Grant, reducing it from \$14 to \$9 per senior, with an impact of \$8,0000 less annually. This is frustrating with the outreach efforts that Senior Centers have had to do to reduce social isolation, address communication with the pandemic, etc.

A sweet treat drive thru will be held for Valentine's Day. The cookies are from Main St. Pastries and More with Valentines from local children.

Linda wanted to acknowledgement Liz's effort on the inclusion/diversity statement in the newsletter.

**5. WRTA**

Rides have been slightly lower in December, with one less driver. A contract is still pending. Two new vans are in use.

**6. Bay Path**

Jerry is on the Finance Committee and Bay Path is in the best financial situation they have been in years.


Liz spoke with Bay Path regarding vaccine clinics at the Housing Authority with possible support from a

Bay Path case manager. Staffing, e.g. homemakers, remains difficult. There may be some small grant funding available to support travel to vaccine clinics.

### **7. Old/New Business and Community Awareness**

Joan shared information about “Give Back” virtual classes with the schools and was curious about the results. Liz shared the information about several student volunteers. Liz is still interested in virtual classes.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm.

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Linda Cragin  
Secretary