

**MEETING: NEW BEDFORD COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2022**  
**TIME: 9:00AM**  
**PLACE: HELD REMOTELY ON GO TO MEETING**

**DRAFT**

**Members Present**

**Bruce Duarte, Sr.- Chairperson**  
**Nancy Feeney- Secretary**  
**Joan Swain**  
**Jane Stott**  
**Zachary Boyer**

**Others in Attendance**

**Debra Lee**  
**Pamela Amaral-Lema**

**Excused Absences**

**Cynthia Wallquist**  
**Patricia Costa- Vice Chairperson**  
**George Smith**  
**Jacqueline Medeiros**

Mr. Duarte called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

**Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Duarte asked board members to look over the January minutes.

**Minutes were presented and approved.**

**Old Business**

**Social Day-** Ms. Lee reported that social day south is almost full. People with more physical needs tend to gravitate towards Brooklawn. Illnesses and injuries play a factor in census. Advertisement will be added to two new flyers. Ms. Lee stated that social distancing, partitions, and mask wearing safety protocols are still being used at the center. Ms. Lee reported that every participant is fully vaccinated, and 75% received their booster.

**Chairperson Report**

Mr. Duarte asked when will Buttonwood will re-open. Ms. Lee stated that the COVID numbers are still high. Until the numbers come down, Ms. Lee stated she does not

foresee until April. Ms. Lee also stated another reason for an April re-open date is the work being done on the men's bathroom at Buttonwood. Board members agreed that April was a reasonable re-opening date. Mr. Duarte asked about the Clear Path Program. Ms. Lee informed that Ms. Amaral-Lema will read it during the Community Services Director's Report.

Mr. Duarte inquired about the \$7,800 grant from MCOA. These funds are to help those who are unable to receive funding from Coastline Elderly Services or are unable to pay privately. This grant allows for 176 days of attendance to be used by multiple participants until June 30<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Lee stated that she received \$20,000 from MCOA last year, which she was able to bring in over new 15 participants. Mr. Boyer stated about the positive effects these grants have on the social day programs. Fairhaven and Dartmouth social day programs are closed.

Mr. Duarte asked if the COA advisory board meeting can be held at Hillman St. Next month's COA advisory board meeting will be held at the administrative office.

**Chairperson's Report was moved and seconded and voted on unanimously.**

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Lee reported that she put in the annual RFP for the block grant. She put in for two social day coordinators (one at north site & one at south site) as well as two of the assistant recreation leaders (one at north site & one at south site). It was a request of \$184,943. Normally, we receive \$92,000. Only two of the COA employees are city funded. All other staff members are funded through multiple grants.

Ms. Lee reported that one of the COA vans had a catalytic converter was stolen during the night. A discussion was held about having a tax professional to help older adults file their taxes. Neighboring towns offer this assistance.

**Director's Report was moved and seconded and voted on unanimously.**

### **Community Services Director's Report**

#### **Budget**

- Per last week's MCOA membership meeting, contracts still haven't been issued by EOEA to MCOA OR the COAs, so asking for boards to contact their delegation. Funding should end up being \$12 p/elder for this fiscal year (right now we're operating on the lower rate). Good news is that once adjusted, the unspent \$ carries over.
- Census figures probably won't be issued til mid-summer/fall; adjustments will be made after that, with hope that the Legislature stays with the Governor's budget recommendation of \$12 p/elder
- City departments will hopefully be level-funded in FY23

### **Clear Path**

It's become increasingly difficult to find vendors who will take this on since they can make more than double what we can afford and not have to worry about the city insurance requirements and individual timeslots, i.e. most clients think he or she should be taken care of first ... regardless of their medical condition. One crew (West End) was decimated due to COVID and a hard time finding replacements; the other two did their best under extraordinary conditions.

### **Exercise**

The Commission for Citizens with Disabilities approved George's motion NOT to use any Commission monies for programs held on sites that are not ADA compliant. We were pleased to learn that DFFM was going to re-start work in December on the bathrooms @ Buttonwood, so they should be done by the time Buttonwood reopens

**Community Services Director's Report was moved and seconded and voted on unanimously.**

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022.

### **Adjourn**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Joan Swain seconded by Zachary Boyer.**