

**MEETING: NEW BEDFORD COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**DATE: APRIL 14, 2022**  
**TIME: 9:00AM**  
**PLACE: 181 HILLMAN ST., BUILDING # 9, NEW BEDFORD, MA 02740**

**DRAFT**

**Members Present**

**Bruce Duarte, Sr.- Chairperson**  
**Nancy Feeney- Secretary**  
**Jacqueline Medeiros**  
**Deborah Mimoso**  
**Joan Swain**  
**Jane Stott**  
**George Smith**

**Others in Attendance**

**Pamela Amaral-Lema**  
**Cynthia Wallquist**  
**Blair Shanklin, Architect consultant for Commission for Citizens with Disabilities**

**Excused Absences**

**Debra Lee**  
**Patricia Costa**

Mr. Duarte called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

**Approval of Minutes**

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

**Minutes were presented and approved.**

**Old Business**

**Social Day-** Ms. Amaral-Lema gave a brief report regarding social day.

**Buttonwood Re-Opening-** Ms. Amaral-Lema gave a report about the Buttonwood Senior Center re-opening that occurred on Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022. A ham luncheon served to 93 individuals in attendance. The luncheon was served by Coastline. The senior activities coordinator and assistant recreation leader at Buttonwood are adding new programming to the center. Currently, Zumba, Strength & Conditioning, and Chair Yoga are offered on a weekly basis. Out of town residents now pay \$3 per exercise class.

### **Appearance- Blair Shanklin**

Mr. Shanklin reported on the ADA compliance issues at 181 Hillman St., Bldg. #9. He gave a report about proposed solutions to entrances 1 & 2 becoming accessible for disabled and older individuals. Two proposed solutions were explained to the board. The ramp version is preferred over the lift issues.

### **Chairperson Report**

During Mr. Duarte's report Mr. Smith and other board members asked for a city councilor attend the next meeting. It was recommended that Maria Giesta, Ward 2 City Councilor; Vice-Chair Committee on Veterans Affairs, Elderly, Youth, Health, Housing & Disability Issues, attend the next COA advisory board meeting scheduled for May 12, 2022. Mr. Smith offered to invite Councilor Giesta.

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

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Amaral-Lema did not have anything additional to report.

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

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

Ms. Wallquist reported on her projects. She also noted that next year COA funding from Community Development Block Grant has been listed for \$93,000. The grant assists with funding of the coordinators and asst. recreation leaders salaries.

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

Ms. Feeney noted that the Salvation Army has The Good Neighbor Fund for those who do not qualify for Fuel Assistance from PACE.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, 2022.

### **Adjourn**

**A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Nancy Feeney seconded by George Smith.**