

Ludlow Council on Aging
Board Meeting
Senior Center
228 State Street
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

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2023 APR 14 P 1:35

Present: J. Zepke, D. Peacey, J. Grimaldi, K. Martin, R. Forti,
F. Krzanik, D. Johnson, F. Barroso, J. DaCruz, K. Green, Chairperson of the
Friends, and visitors Bob Mishol and Audrey Dyjak.

Excused: K. Ribeiro

I. Roll Call – The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. by Chairperson D. Peacey

II. Secretary's Report

- a. Minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with one change to be made. Under *IV. Director's Report* item *a*, the word *Selection* will be changed to *Selectmen*. M/S: J. Grimaldi/R. Forti. All in favor.

III. Treasurers Report

- a. J. Zepke reported that seven months into the fiscal year 2023, 57% of the budget has been spent. FY 2024 not yet completed. The "Additional Funding Carryover" of \$50,000 listed under "Total Grant Budget" will be moved to a different line item, as it has been reserved for a new van. M/S: K. Martin/D. Peacey. All in favor.

IV. Director's Report

- a. Evening Hours: Attendance on Tuesday evenings has been low and J. Zepke reported they are seeking ideas for activities that would be fun and engaging. Center attendees are being encouraged to submit ideas for evening programs in the suggestion box located in the lobby. Activities Director Maria Ardolino is developing a series of retirement workshops to include topics such as signing up for Medicare and downsizing homes. K. Green said she and Bob would be willing to conduct a trivia night. Van usage on Thursday evenings has been low as well. K. Martin offered to send media releases to Ludlow Register, The Republican and MassLive to remind seniors of evening activities and availability of van.
- b. Status of new Senior Center Staff: A five hour per week social worker, Anthony Kempesty, has been hired courtesy of the Behavior Health grant. His focus will be on reaching out to individuals who have not been to the Center since COVID and helping them access needed services.

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- c. New Van: J. Zepke received a quote for a new van - \$140,000. Mark Strange passed the information along to Laurie, the town's grant writer to explore other grants such as the Community Transit Grant for additional funds for the van. Fifty thousand dollars has already been secured for this purpose.
 - d. J. Zepke discussed upcoming programs and continued high attendance at the Senior Center. It was noted that attendance at lunch remains high and sometimes involves "wait lists" for holiday luncheons as it exceeds 240 people.

V. Chairman's Report:

- a. Revised Code of Conduct: D. Peacey sent it to J. Zepke; the finalized version will be signed by Board members and posted at the Center.
- b. Board Vacancies: There are three vacancies, including one alternate. With J. Grimaldi retiring, there will be an opening for a Vice Chairman. D. Peacey, J. DaCruz and K. Martin agreed to remain in their current Officer roles. Visitors Audrey Dyjak and Bob Mishol were encouraged to submit a letter to the Selectmen if they are interested in serving on the Board.
- c. By-laws: D. Peacey reported the town has a short, one-page version dating back to 1976. A longer version draft was developed in 2012 but was never signed off on. She will send those out to the Board for review. The Board will try to update the By-laws during the next year as well as continue to work on the Senior Center policy manual.

VI. Old/New Business:

- a. State Ethics Training: The Mass. ethics reform law imposes mandatory education and training requirements for municipal employees, elected officials and Board appointees. The state has implemented a new online course that Board members are asked to complete. J. Zepke distributed information about accessing and taking the online course, which should be completed with 30 days.
- b. K. Green briefly discussed upcoming activities of the Friends of the Senior Center including participation in Ludlow's 250th Birthday Celebration Event which will occur in 2024.

VII. Adjournment: 5:37 p.m. M/S: F. Barroso/D. Johnson. All in favor.

The next Board Meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. on Wed., March 15, 2023.

Respectfully submitted.

K. Martin, Secretary COA