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Rehoboth Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
@Francis Farm Hall- 27 Francis Farm Rd
Minutes of September 28, 2022

- 1) **Call to order**---7:00 p.m.
- 2) **Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3) **Members Present**--- Dr. Robert Lambe, Ron Whittemore, Dr. Bruce Thayer, Brittany Bixenman, Dr. Robert Insley, Neal Harrington **Members Not in Attendance**--- Associate Member MaryBeth Moriarty **Members Excused**--- Charlene Cunha, Sue Laverdiere **Director Present**--- Linda Sherman **Guests Present**--- Richard Panofsky, George Solas, Skip Vadnais, Town Nurse-Gerri Hamel, RN, MSN
- 4) **Review past months meeting minutes**---03.23.22 minutes COA Board approved as is, 07.27.22 minutes COA Board approved as is, 08.24.22 minutes **REVISE** Kitchen Supervisor name: **CHICO CHARBONNEAU**, no other revisions needed-COA approved as is.
- 5) **Presentations**--- None
- 6) **Expense Reports**--- None
- 7) **Director's Report**--- **Food Services**- Meals on wheels continues, Snacks are available at the coffee bar, Donuts from Dunkin Donuts are served on Wed. & Fri mornings, Gert's café food comes directly from The Cook's House catering and had 71 guests this week. The number of guests and \$3.00 lunch donations being paid for the meal are not matching up. We need to remind our guests that the lunch donations we receive go towards the food being catered for Gert's café. There are guests that are not paying. Will announce again that the money donations for food are applied for their weekly luncheons. Dr. Thayer recommended that we get another microphone like we did at the previous COA café.
A Day on the Canal- Sponsored by T.R.I.A.D. which was a success. Was held on 08.11.22 from 10am-3pm with lunch at Seafood Sam's. A walk along the canal was enjoyed. We also have new Senior members that have joined T.R.I.A.D.
Ice Cream Social -Super success, we had about 90 guests at one time! Grandparents brought their Grandchildren. Outside activities were available for all, which included Bocce and Cornhole Toss.
Pie and Coffee- We have ordered pies from Bateson's Apple Farm and will have this replace the Ice Cream Socials on Wed. afternoons instead for the Fall Season.
Drums Alive- Kelly Brophy is our new instructor
Watercolor Class- Daisy Gilmore is our new Watercolor paint instructor. We had 19 students the first day!
Crafty Fun Class- Daisy G. will also be teaching this class on Tues. @1:00pm starting in Oct. We have pumpkins coming from Souza Family Farm to paint and decorate. We purchased a Cricut Mug press to make coffee mugs. We also purchased a Cricut Explore Air 2 for paper crafting and more.
NEW Members- We currently have added approx. 110 new MY Senior Center sign-ups from May- Sept. 2022
- 8) **Public Health Report**---Dr. Lambe went over current public health State and Local data relevant to our area which included-Covid-19, Influenza, Mosquito-borne illness: West Nile Virus and E.E.E., Tick-borne illness: Lyme, babesiosis and anaplasmosis, Monkeypox.
-Town Nurse Gerri stated that there is still an uptick on Covid cases, currently still using State wastewater reports for data. She has talked to other Local Town Nurses and their numbers are increasing as well, especially in Seekonk. Rehoboth this month tested 190 and 23 people were positive for Covid. Dr. Lambe has concerns with these numbers being accurate because the majority are testing at home and not reporting positive cases. There is no other way to get accurate numbers other than through State wastewater data which they test 2-3/week. Dr. Thayer agreed that the State data available is terrible and hard to determine whether extra precautions are needed at this time. Dr. Lambe agreed that they should hold on these precautions. Will revisit this next month and wait to get more data on increasing covid cases.

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-Nurse Gerri held a flu clinic at Anawan Pharmacy on Sept. 13th and 26 people came. There will be another on Oct. 11th from 9-12pm, can register on-line or in person.

-Anawan Pharmacy has started doing Covid PCR drive-thru testing, this is by appointment only and have to register on their website directly.

9) **Old Business**---Update on kitchen renovations and deep cleaning-

-COA Building water- Jim Sine Plumbing stated that the plumbing is completed and we have running water which also includes working toilets for the COA. Will still have to wait for the water to be State tested to make sure safe for drinking.

-Water filtration system- Town B.O.H.- Karl Drown is in charge of public wells for the town and to make sure they are properly tested and certified from the State.

10) **New Business**---C.O.A. Director stated that we now have our waffle machine and commercial can opener installed. We are waiting on 3 Bay sink and salad sink. Maintenance Dept. have done an excellent job of cleaning the kitchen and fixing things that have needed repair/refurbishing.

-New meat slicer for the kitchen- the old meat slicer that was left here was previously inspected by Chico Charbonneau, George Solas and Linda, it is at least 25 years old and the blade is pitted which makes it a health and safety issue. Director suggested using B.E.S.I. funds to purchase a new one. COA Kitchen Supervisor should make final decision and approval of the new meat slicer. COA Board agreed to new meat slicer purchase. Ron W. recommended pending approval of Chico Charbonneau-Kitchen Supervisor to approve the electric food slicer from Highland Food Supply on 9/28/22. COA Board voted unanimously on Ron Whittemore's recommendation.

-New C.O.A. Board Chairperson- Dr. Lambe stated that he will need to step down from being the C.O.A. Board Chairperson because he is currently Chairperson for the Town's new Health and Human Services Board and cannot be Chairman for both. His departure for the COA Board Chairperson position is effective immediately as of tonight on 9.28.22. Dr. Lambe stated that he nominates Brittany Bixenman as the new COA Board Chairperson effective this evening to replace him. Brittany has extensive experience in Geriatric Hospital and Home Care services as an Occupational Therapist. She would be perfect for the position. Dr. Lambe motioned for the COA Board to accept Brittany Bixenman as the new C.O.A. Board Chairperson effective as of the next C.O.A. Board meeting in October- All C.O.A. Board members present voted yes unanimously.

11) **B.E.S.I. Report**--- Dr. Bruce Thayer reported that B.E.S.I. continue to thrive and are doing very well, even during the Covid pandemic. Their staff are currently still working hybrid remote/in house. Personnel there is still needed, but is getting better.

12) **Friends of the Rehoboth Elderly Report**--- None

13) **Correspondence**---None

14) **C.O.A. Building usage**--- Request by Rep. Ray Medeiros for Rehoboth Lions Club Senior Holiday Dinner 12.04.22 @Noon-2pm (max. attendance 100- Rehoboth Senior Residents first served)

-For C.O.A. building usage approval the following requirements must be met- 1.) COA Board initial approval- 2.) Town Selectman, Lenny Mills- 3.) Kitchen Supervisor, Chico Charbonneau- 4.) assigned COA Building Custodial Care Supervisor to make sure the building is secure and everyone is in the designated area that was approved.

15) **Open Forum**--- None

16) **Other Business Issues**---None

17) **Adjournment**---8:56pm- Dr. Robert Lambe motioned to adjourn meeting- all Board Members present unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,
Kimberly Robens- Secretary

Approved by:
Brittany Bixenman- C.O.A. Board Chairperson



Next COA Board Meeting- 10.26.22 @7pm