

**Northampton Council on Aging Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 12th, 2022, 3:30 pm**

**COA Minutes-Draft**

**Call to Order:** Cynthia Langley called the meeting to order @ 3:35 pm

**Present:** Cynthia Langley, Laura Scott, Michael Ford, Bob Dionne, Gerriann Butler, Jeanne Henry Hoose, & Anne “Val” Romano

**Excused:** Carolyn Sandel (excused)

**Public Session:** Bruce Fuller

- **Bruce would like to see the van back in service. He suggested charging \$2-\$3 to help cover expenses. He also asked for an increase in staff pay. He said the service at the Center is excellent.**
- **Bruce mentioned the possible need for a second AED outside the Fitness Center and CPR training for staff. We are in the process of scheduling a training session.**
- **Bruce also questioned whether it would be feasible to have a vending machine to cover the times that the coffee shop isn't opened.**

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- **A motion was made to approve the April minutes by Michael Ford and 2nd by Bob Dionne. The minutes were unanimously approved**

**Updates:**

- **There are still only 6 applicants for the Director's position. The city has again extended the deadline for the search. Out of the current applicants, there is one strong candidate with**

**experience in senior center management.**

- **No answer to how long former members need to remain off the board before returning.**
- **The vaccine mandate has been lifted.**

#### **Old Business:**

- **The Age & Dementia Friendly Initiative draft will be sent to COA members as requested. The steering committee is setting priorities, meeting with the new mayor to ensure she is onboard with the old mayor's approval, and retraining city staff to use proper language.**
- **Jeanne Henry Hoose asked the board to take a look at this month's art exhibit before they leave the building. May 13th will be the 4th Arts Night Out reception.**
- **Laura Scott reported on Senior Center transportation options. We have provided just over 1300 rides since July. There was a discussion on the need for rides to W Hatfield's medical establishments that currently aren't available through our Center. Jeanne Henry Hoose, through her work with Northampton Neighbors, agreed that they aren't able to provide these services either. PVRTA does not serve the town of Hatfield. During the Covid closure, the Senior Center had secured a MAPC grant that allowed patrons to travel to these offices. Unfortunately this grant ended in June 2021 with rides continuing through September. Since October, patrons have been allowed medical rides within the city limits only due to budget costs. Laura agreed to speak to the city's financial director to see if there were funds available to allow rides with a slightly higher co-pay to be scheduled with Cosmic Cab to W Hatfield/Hatfield and also to seek further grant funding.**

#### **New Business:**

**Next Meeting:** June 9th, 2022, 3:30 pm, Northampton Senior Center

**Adjournment :** Motion to adjourn was made by Michael Ford & 2nd by Bob Dionne

Meeting adjourned @ 4:12 pm