

WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE
Minutes – March 22, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am on the Weston COA Zoom application.

Present: Kristen Frady, Vida Goldstein, Frank Hillery, Peter Mitsakos, Mignonne Murray, John McCahan, Prather Palmer, Shirley Small-Rougeau, Susan Wagner.

Absent: Marge Ackerman, Dianne Sullivan, Teresa Young.

1. John read the following statement:

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, which includes an extension of Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting will be held via an online meeting platform. No in-person attendance of members of the public is available but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time including a dial-in option.

2. The minutes of February 22, 2022 were approved as written.

3. There were no residents' comments.

4. Old Business

4a. Follow up on the 'Surprise Billing' act. Prather noted that a representative from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will be speaking on June 14 by Zoom and will cover 'surprise billing'. In follow up to the series on common health issues, Prather also noted that Dr. Oleg Yerstein from the Lahey-Tufts medical system will discuss Alzheimer's Disease on May 11 by Zoom. His talk will include the most recent pharmacologic treatments. If possible, both talks will be recorded provided permission is granted by the speakers.

4b. Social Justice Working Group. Because of technologic problems, Shirley was unable to speak to the committee. [Shirley subsequently distributed a summary of the last SJWG meeting by email.]

4c. Housing and housing finances. Kristen reported that Arthur Bergeron has been scheduled for a 'Frank and Mary' program: the pros and cons of different housing options that may be appropriate as one ages. It is being called "Moving Dilemma" and will be presented on Tuesday May 3 at noon. A housing fair is still in progress for the fall. Susan suggested a session on how an owner might sell a house without a broker. Vida thought that a broker might also be present to talk about the advantages of using a broker. Vida also suggested a program that featured devices that helped people to stay safely in their own homes.

The discussion moved to consideration of the vendor list that the COA maintains of people and services that may be useful to homeowners. The list is difficult to maintain as vendors need to be appropriately vetted and checked to be sure that they are current. The list is infrequently used. A variety of websites are also available that advertise a wide array of services. Vida wondered if a program on constructing online searches and navigating online vendors might be useful. Such a program could address other subjects as well, for example, organization and presentation of photographs. Mignonne said that similar programs on Zoom had not worked well but they might if done in person. Mignonne also considered a program in which participants might share their favorite apps. Prather suggested that such app preferences could be listed in the newsletter. Vida will try to find the list of technologic solutions that was previously developed for a COA program, and we will consider those possibilities at a future meeting.

4d. New programming. In follow up to the Sex and Aging program, Susan thought it had been worth doing. Kristen referred to the fact that 31 people signed up for it and that the presenter had tried to adhere to the issues, especially the relevant research, that participants had expressed interest in. It would also be worthwhile to track the number of times that the program recording is viewed.

In a return to the prior discussion on housing, the issue of how home owners might sell their houses themselves will be included on our agenda for a subsequent meeting. We need to consider who would be appropriate to address the issue.

Frank related the experience of having a computer session interrupted by a warning that his computer was in danger. Kristen noted that a talk from a member of the Weston Police is scheduled for May 17. Since computer scams are reported to the police, it was thought that it would be best to have that department address the issues of computer and online safety. Vida wondered about inviting Lee McCanne who is in charge of the town's computer systems to speak about internet safety.

In reference to the suggestion last meeting that programming on the current Russian/Ukrainian situation be considered, Susan noted that the Local and Global Discussion Group on April 14 has scheduled that topic for discussion.

5. Scheduling and administrative matters. There was no business under this item.

The next meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am on Tuesday April 26, 2022 by Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 am.

Submitted by John McCahan