

# LANCASTER COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING

December 19, 2018

**Attendees:** Jay Moody (Chair), Marilyn Largey (CSL), Elsie Lively, Sheila Casey (NM), Michele Macdonald, Nicole Kanis, Jo-Agnes Santangelo, Judie MacLean, Stan Starr (Selectman), Orlando Pacheco (Town Administrator), Phil Eugene(NM), Maribeth Eugene(NM), Sue Billings(NM), Elizabeth Kuzmitch(NM), Patricia McDowel(NM), Charlotte Berry(NM), Deborah Ducharme(NM), Susan Franks(NM), Eric Lidstone(NM), Olga Torres(Administrative Assistant).

**Meeting called to order at 3:32 PM.**

**Update on Current Projects:** First Church is partnering with the Senior Center to sponsor meals together and have buckets of sand available for seniors. ~~Kevin at the DPW~~ <sup>Church</sup> will deliver the buckets.

The Museum of Science will present a Planetarium Project funded by a grant from the Cultural Council. It will be held upstairs in the gym.

Michele will re-send the November Minutes for approval at next month's meeting.

Orlando spoke about the cleaning that has been going on at the Center. Netflix is done filming their production. Gutters have been fixed. According to Orlando, next year electrical and plumbing upgrades will be done. When upgrades to the electrical panel are completed, we can run a permanent generator on the inside of the building. We are looking to do a LED upgrade.

Nicole commented that our large turnout today was due to staff changes. When asked why the COA Director has been suspended, Stan and Orlando preferred to not comment on personnel issues. Someone mentioned that an article in the Item quoted Orlando as saying that the COA Director would return soon. Orlando replied that he never read the article.

Maribeth asked if the Center can operate without a staff director. There was much debate as to whether seniors have still been receiving the same level of service.

Sue Franks spoke out that Netflix seems to be the focus of the town at the expense of the seniors who had a hard time getting into the Lancaster Community Center during the filming.

There was discussion of whether COA and LCC budget reports have been sent over to the Center. Orlando says that COA still has not spent its allocated budget.

Jo-Agnes asked about the chain of communication when there is a scheduling issue at the Center on

weekends. Orlando advised to first, call Rick. Then if it goes further, the town police department who would then call Orlando.

Nicole asked the seniors present which activities are most important to them. Much interest here was expressed in the Friday Lunch Club.

**Communication:** Jay suggests having better communication between Lancaster Town Hall and the COA in the future.

Jay will now sign the budgets.

It was argued whether COA policies and procedures have been made available to COA. The relationship between the town administration and the COA was discussed. COA would like more communication from the town hall. An example of this involved cleaning and decluttering the Community Center Building.

The dumpster issue, its placement behind the Center by the town, should have been discussed ahead of time. Its surprise arrival caused a lot of trouble, anger and blame. All the items disposed of were not "junk". Orlando stated our building was cited three times about junk and suggested we speak with the Board of Health and Fire Department.

There is a need to contain the trash. More barrels will be put out.

According to Orlando, it is unclear how long the COA will be without a director. Orlando said that his cell number is posted online and that anyone can call him. He said he is willing to attend COA meetings.

**Future of COA - Trips - Policies:** Orlando said that the fee schedule needs to be redone. There's no standard policy in place but the town administration is almost done developing one now.

**Our next meeting will be January 16, 2019.**

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:00 PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Casey