

**Billerica Council on Aging
25 Concord Road, Billerica MA
Board Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, February 10, 2021 Zoom Meeting

Present: Jean Patel Bushnell, Dan Burns, Richard Carroll, Joan DiOrio, Phil Doiron, Bill Neeb, Mary Riley, Mike Rosa, and Stephen Strykowski.

Excused: Barbara Flaherty and Barbara Wittenhagen

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM by Board Chair, Joan DiOrio, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence for the sick and departed.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the January meeting as printed and distributed to the Board. It was noticed that Mike Rosa was not reported as present during that meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes as amended. M/Mike Rosa S/Dan Burns. With all members in favor the motion passed.

Regarding the minutes member Rich Carroll asked if the letter had been drafted and sent to the FCOB to provide the Director with \$3,000.00 cash for operational use. Secretary Bill Neeb reported that the letter had not yet been drafted but agreed take on that assignment.

The floor recognized Ms. Jean Bushnell to present the Directors update, including:

Operations:

- Reopening of on-site fitness classes as of March 1st
- Additional BATV programs
- Staff efforts taking on contact tracing
- Spring newsletter Outlook distribution in February
- Overhaul of Companions' handbook

Community Partnerships:

- Enterprise Bank
- Elder Services of Merrimack Valley
- Temple Shalom Emeth
- Sunshine Gals
- AARP
- Beth Israel – Lahey Burlington

Programs:

- Postponement of SNAP program to October due to:
 1. Lack of capacity
 2. Overwhelming processing details
 3. Better planning of resources to ensure effectiveness of the program

In the meantime, we will steer our patrons to where they can get access to the program

Other:

- Vaccinations
 1. Staff fielding calls inquiring as to availability of vaccines, with little information we can provide.
 2. Transportation being made available to Bedford VA and mass vaccination site in Lowell
 3. Utilizing volunteers to assist town in booking Friday vaccination appointments
 4. ESMV survey finds top issues facing seniors:
 - a. Basic Homecare
 - b. General Mobility
 - c. Accessing Benefits
 - d. Mental Health

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Capital Needs Assessment: Director Jean Bushnell now an Ex-Officio member of Billerica's Capital Facilities Study Committee. BCOA in Tier 1 of the scope of the committee's efforts.

Following the Directors report, a lengthy discussion ensued on the rollout of the Massachusetts vaccination locations and their accessibility to local seniors. In addition, Ms. Bushnell pointed out the COA's in the region are facing the difficulty of managing their staff when an employee refuses to be vaccinated. There is also discussion if municipal employees will be allowed to work if unvaccinated.

Chairwoman Joan DoOrio offered comments on the positive feedback from readers of the Outlook regarding the Directors cover article as being spiritually uplifting.

She also made mention that the Quilting group at the COA has made donations to the Lions and Rotary, and are currently donating 28 quilts to benefit foster children.

Motion to Adjourn M/Mike Rosa S/Phil Doiron, Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned, 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William F. Neeb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William F. Neeb, Secretary