



COA Meeting Minutes June 22, 2021

- In attendance J. Cappe, I Eskett, C. Waal, C. Haigh, J. Zienowicz
- J. Cappe called the meeting to order at 8:58 am.

Comments and Concerns:

None presented.

• New Business:

- Election of New Officers: Waal nominated Julie Cappe-Chairperson, Irene Eskett-Vice Chairperson, Cheryl Haigh-Secretary Second: Zienowicz All in favor
- Julie Cappe welcomed Irene Eskett formally to the Ware Council on Aging as her appointment happened just before the Covid-19 shutdown.
- Zienowicz: The Town of Ware has been accepted into the AARP Age Friendly Community Network. The Town has three years to form a working group and compile an action plan to submit to AARP for full acceptance into the program.
 - This will open the Town up to future grant opportunities and guide Town policies that will improve aging in place for our seniors.
- Reopening plans for the Senior Center were reviewed and discussed. The COA expressed an interest in following the plan and timeline submitted to the BOS on June 15, 2021.
 - A compromise was agreed to open on July 6th with the following changes:
 - Mon, Wed, Fri Dine in congregate meals allowed
 - Tu, Thu Grab and Go continued to the end of July
 - Tu, Thu lunch deliveries continue to the end of July
 - Tai Chi starts July 7th and continues M,W,F thereafter
 - Line Dancing starts July 15th and continues every Th thereafter
 - Communal activities, BINGO, Card leagues, Social clubs start the week of July 19th
 - Van Service begins July 7th and continues M,W,F to the end of July
- Zienowicz discussed the status of the meal program and the need to resupply the kitchen. Country Bank donated \$2,000.00 on June 16th. Alton will begin ordering for July immediately. The Friends group will begin to contribute towards the meal program again once we reopen the building and things like the thrift store and parties return.
- Zienowicz discussed the review of meal costs over the pandemic shutdown and forecasting the costs of congregate meals once we reopen and a need to increase the fee from \$2.75 to \$3.00 to keep the meal program viable.
 - Cappe made the motion to increase the meal fee from \$2.75 to \$3.00 Eskett –second, All in favor
- Zienowicz discussed the WestMass Transportation Grant which has been increased from \$5,000 per year to \$7,500 per year for the next two years.
- COA reviewed the financial, outreach, and van mid-year reports provided by the Executive Director.
- Motion to adjourn at 10:35AM, Zienowicz, Cappe- second, all in favor.
- Next meeting: July 20th, 2021 at 9AM

Cheryl Haigh: Recorder