

**East Longmeadow Council on Aging (COA)**  
**Tuesday, January 12, 2021 – Board Meeting Minutes**

1. Meeting called to order at 9:00AM by Chairperson Barbara J. Farrell  
Members were notified the meeting was being recorded.
  
2. **Members and Staff Present:**  
Mary Beth Dowd, Alicia Smith, Barbara Farrell, Doreen Harrison, Jane Desilets, Joseph Barker, Julie Dunlop, Tim Sheranko, Theresa Gavoni-Moylan, Melinda Mandeville, Sharon Giordano.
  
3. **Approval of December 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes:**  
Approval of the December 15, 2020 meeting minutes tabled until the February 9, 2021 meeting.
  
4. **Director's Report:**  
The new COA Director, Mary Beth Dowd, introduced herself. Mary Beth began her tenure on December 28, 2020. She comes to the East Longmeadow COA with 32 years of service.

Meals-on-Wheels (MOW) continues. Curb side meals are available Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. There is a continuing effort regarding the feasibility of increasing the curb side meals to five (5) days.

The assistance by AARP of 2020 taxes will occur at the COA. East Longmeadow seniors are calling for an appointment. The process includes dropping off tax information. Once the paperwork is completed, the individual will pick it up. There will not be any person-to-person contact.

5. **Program/Volunteer Coordinator Report:**  
A second online newsletter is up and running. This newsletter contains events and programs.

Bingo in the Parking Lot continues to be a success. The program occurs each week. Sponsors assist with prizes.

Volunteers are needed, especially in the kitchen, to help with MOW. Training is involved; the Program/Volunteer Coordinator meets with the volunteer and the volunteer spends one (1) day shadowing the chef.

6. **Liaison Committee Reports:**
  - a. AAA – An Ombudsman is having a difficult time meeting with clients. This is due to Covid-19.
  - b. GSSSI – Report not necessary.
  - c. Emergency Planning  
A briefing to all East Longmeadow department heads was given on Covid-19.
  
8. **New Business:**
  - a. The Gold Cane Program recognizes the oldest resident in East Longmeadow. The last time there was a golden cane designated resident was in 2017. The topic was tabled until the March COA meeting.
  - b. Access to Covid 19 vaccine for seniors is urgent and research will be done as to when Covid-19 vaccines will be available and administered in East Longmeadow.
  
9. **Old Business:**
  - a. Bylaws are in the process of being revised.
  - b. Nominations for new board officers need to be ready for the May 2021 meeting. The board has openings for two (2) new members.
  - c. A copy of “A Pleasant View” will be sent to board members.
  - d. Ridership on the Tri-trolley vans is down. Each van accommodates only one (1) passenger at a time. Working with Pioneer Valley Transportation Authority (PVTA), adding another passenger is possible.
  
10. **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:53 AM  
Next meeting will be Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 9:00 AM via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted by Jane Desilets  
January 12, 2021