

**Franklin Council on Aging
January 11, 2022**

Members Present: Bob Crowley (Chair), Ron Higginbottom, (Vice Chair), Lyn O'Brien (Secretary), Ken Norman, Faith Flahery, Janet Jewett

Also Present: Danielle Hopkins (FSC Director), Christina LaRose (FSC Deputy Director), Jamie Hellen (Town Administrator}, Steve Sherlock (Community Information Director), Karen Bratt (HR Director), Alecia Alleyne (Assistant to the Town Administrator), Joanne Wright (FOFE Chair).

Members Excused: Mary Hicks, Janet Mlici

Members Absent: Lester Quan

Note, meeting at the FSC, option to attend via Zoom were made available but incorrect meeting code was provided to the Council causing some members to be late or absent from the meeting.

Meeting started at 10:11 am

Minutes from meeting on November 12, 2021: Deferred until next meeting.

Introductions of New Director and (Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator)

Director: Danielle Hopkins

Deputy Director: Christina LaRose

Danielle Hopkins, FSC Director

Grew up/raised in Franklin, graduated 2006. Earned a degree in music therapy and is a certified musical therapist. Background working in Assisted Living Facilities and is a swimming coach at the YMCA.

Christina LaRose, FSC Deputy Director

Licensed as a certified clinical social worker, graduated from Framingham State, worked with the senior tax write off program, worked with Hesco Elder Services as a Protective Service Worker and as a social worker at the Council on Aging in Foxborough.

Jamie Hellen, Town Administrator Report

New position created for the FSC as Deputy Director created to back up the Director as most municipal Directors have a Deputy. Deputy serves as back up if the Director is not available and will take on her own set of tasks to manage in the Center.

What are your goals (Chair asked)

- To increase programming and therefore increase the amount of seniors that are engaged with the Senior Center.

- Investigate options for bigger ticket items IE Van. Christina is experienced in grant writing.

Common Grounds Cafe Update: (Jamie Hellen)

- Cafe is currently closed due to lack of personnel.
- New position "Chef and Kitchen Manager" posted.
- Inspection planned to assure all equipment and supplies are inspected and updated as needed. There are some broken items that will be replaced.
- Plan to open the Cafe restaurant style and re-evaluate what this takes to keep it open - including charges/costs, volunteer roles/responsibilities, hours to open.

Chairperson's Comments:

What is the Role of COA? COA members are asking to clarify their role and requesting for better communication regarding changes at the FSC.

The mission of the Franklin Council on Aging is to enhance the independence and quality of life for Franklin older adults by:

- Identifying the needs of this population and creating programs that meet those needs.
- Offering the knowledge, tools and opportunities to promote mental, social and physical well-being.
- Advocating for relevant programs and services in our community.
- Serving as a community focal point for aging issues and as liaison to local, state and Federal resources for older adults and their families

Lyn O would like to make a motion for the COA to study the mission, role and goals of the COA in the February 2022 meeting. Motion was seconded by Ron H. There was no discussion and the motion was unanimously approved.

Discussion on communication with the Seniors and how to improve this. Multiple ideas were given by several in the meeting to explore.

FOFE Liason Report: (Joanne Wright)

- Joanne is reporting that there has been no communication to the FOFE for the past several weeks.
- Gave the Senior Center \$500 for meal vouchers, FOFE members would like more information on how this money was used.
- Last Christmas sent out Gift Cards to 48 Seniors, \$30 each. The Charter School donated money and FOFE supplemented.
- FOFE needs a budget for the current fiscal year. Discussion of current balance in the accounts, what seniors like to see budgeted, etc.

Chairperson's Comments:

Welcome to the New Director and Director Deputy, the Council is looking forward to working together.

Citizen's Comments

The downstairs conference room is now an office, would like an update on this. Jamie reports that this is temporary due to the need for the Board of Health presence for CoVID 19 testing. The Public Health Nurse is housed there and the new Epidemiologist started there yesterday.

Program Director's report:

- Review of Statistical Reports given to the community with the agenda. (See Attached).
- Discussed STAT numbers in terms of who is signing in and what they are signing in for in comparison to the accuracy of the Program Stats. Concern that SC members are not understanding the importance and rationale for signing in. Joanne W suggested an explanation of this and why it is necessary in the next newsletter.

Motion to Adjourn: Bob motioned to adjourn, Ron seconded.

Adjourned: 11:34 am

Next Meeting: February 8, 2022

Respectfully Submitted by Lyn O'Brien, Secretary COA