

COUNCIL ON AGING—OCTOBER 27, 2020

Present: Joan Belle Isle, Jayne Colino, Mary Glendon, Adele Hoffman, Jo Edith Heffron, Naomi Krasner, Ena Lorant, Norm Meltz, Maria Meyer, Donna Murphy, Julie Norstrand, John Pelletier, Joyce Picard, Sue Rasala, Sue Schlesinger, Allison Sharma, Dan Shaw, Laura Shaw, Sue Schlesinger, Gordon Szerlip, Emma Watkins

Absent: Dov Bard, Sandra Davidow, Beth Dugan, Tyrone Hooks, Eric Rosenbaum, Lisa Samelson, Nancy Scammon, Tom Shoemaker

Guests: Alice Ingerson, Margaret Leipsitz, Larry Lepide

Meeting was held by Zoom Videoconference and was called to order at 7:35 PM.

Minutes approved from Sept 22 meeting; approval was unanimous with no abstentions.

Age Friendly Plan (PLAAN)

Margaret Leipsitz was re-introduced as she is now taking on the role of completing Newton's Age Friendly Plan (Planning for an All Age Friendly Newton, or PLAAN). Each member of the Age Friendly Network is expected to provide a plan showing goals and objectives within 5 years of joining the network, and while Newton had developed a solid draft, we are at the stage of needing to create a finalized document.

Margaret recapped the work she had done when Newton joined the Age Friendly Network, which included hosting community sessions to identify priorities, reviewed the Age Friendly Domains, and outlined the steps she will be taking as she brings the plan to completion.

Updates

NewCal (Norm Meltz and Sue Rasala) The Working Group presented the site recommendation to the Newtonville Area Council, which was generally supportive. Work is ongoing to determine whether NewCAL should incorporate the existing building – and to what extent – or whether an entirely new building should be built. A recommendation is expected in the next eight weeks. Ongoing funding is a concern, particularly in light of the COVID impact on city finances.

Transportation (John Pelletier) – John reviewed the current plans for creating a dual-direction bikepath on the carriageway on Commonwealth Av, the plans for modifying traffic flow on Commonwealth Av from Norumbega to Melrose St, and the plans to connect Newton to Weston's existing bike paths. Referenced materials included:

Commonwealth Ave two-way/bike ped travel on the carriageway:

Sample implementations within the project boundary of Manet road by BC and Melrose Street in Auburndale:

<https://stagee34.visioninternet.net/home/showdocument?id=40565>

Melrose street to Norumbega (funded by the CPC and on the Tip for construction in 2025 in coordination with the route 30 bridge over 128):

<http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/104873>

The Weston path info:

<https://www.weston.org/DocumentCenter/View/24284/Functional-Design-Report-June-2020-PDF>

Proposed Mental Health Seminar (Laura Shaw) – Dan Shaw, Lisa Samelson, Laura Shaw and Donna Murphy are working on developing a seminar to address mental health issues among older adults, particularly during the pandemic.

Housing (Allison Sharma) – Sunrise Senior Living hosted a Zoom meeting that included Allison Sharma, Jayne Colino and Donna Murphy to discuss their plans for a second Sunrise facility in Chestnut Hill. The second facility will be similar to the Sunrise facility currently under construction on Washington Street in Newton Corner, with 85 units and a roughly 50/50 split between assisted living and memory care units. Plans are expected to be submitted to City Council over the next few months, and Allison will continue to communicate with Sunrise and invite them to present to the entire board if/when appropriate.

General (Jayne Colino) – Senior Center staff are now planning to reach out to all former Senior Center attendees to check on general status. Senior Center staff are continuing to provide support for those in need of groceries, prescriptions, and meals.

Boomer Project Update

Larry Lapide presented the results of his two year study into the Boomers. His presentation, and the materials from which he draws his conclusions can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1036DmvF2M1CR59IvWhfWEeNjFMWrpRWc?usp=sharing>

Larry will set up a meeting and invite those interested to attend for a full presentation and discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25PM.