

Lunenburg Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: Chairperson Pete Lincoln called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Present: Pete Lincoln (Chairperson), Susan Doherty (Director) Jacquelyn Dwyer, Jane Rabbitt, Judy Tarbell , Debbie Lincoln, Sarah Grant, Diane Nowd, Betty DiGiacomo, Kevin McNally, and Cheryl Moisan.

Absent: Brian Guenard

GUESTS: Cheryl Aubuchon, Eagle House Supporters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Mr. Lincoln announced that former chairperson of the COA Roland Leblanc died recently, and requested a moment of silence in his memory.

MINUTES APPROVAL: Ms. Moisan noticed that the next meeting date was incorrect. Ms. DiGiacomo motioned to approve the amended minutes from the February 9, 2016 meeting, Ms. Dwyer seconded. On vote, motion carried unanimously.

CURRENT BUSINESS:

1. Meeting with DPW concerning volunteer painting of the Eagle House: This meeting was postponed because Jim Breault was ill. Ms. Doherty reported that she contacted DPW Director Jack Rodriquez, and he informed her that anyone who plans to paint the Eagle House must provide a lead paint removal certificate. Mr. McNally asked if the Council could obtain estimates on the job. Ms. Doherty said that the DPW has sought out estimates in the past, and that it would cost about \$15,000 to paint the building, including removal of old paint, and replacing woodwork. Mr. Lincoln opined that the Council should do whatever they could to preserve the Eagle House and suggested power washing the exterior. Mr. Lincoln also commented that the current state of Lunenburg's Town Hall serves as an example of what happens when municipal buildings aren't maintained. The Council agreed to reschedule the meeting with Mr. Breault and Kit Walker from the DPW for the April COA meeting.

2. Director's Report:

- **FY17 Budget Meeting with Finance Committee March 10 at 7 p.m.:** Ms. Doherty explained that she intends to present the budget which was approved by the Council in January of 2016.
- **Property Tax Work-Off Committee:** Ms. Doherty reported that seven people have been placed in positions throughout town, and that a couple people's applications were denied. The Property Tax Work-Off Committee has decided that next year's applications for the program will go out later in order to consider current year tax return statements.
- **RUOK Program:** Ms. Doherty reported that the town has received checks totaling \$3,000 from the Greater Lowell Community Foundation, and the Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts to fund the purchase of equipment for the

RUOK Program such as a digital camera, software, a PC for the dispatching with a two-way monitor, and a printer. Ms. Doherty said that once the program is up and running in Lunenburg, the RUOK Program will branch out to other communities covered by the Nashoba Valley Regional Dispatch Center in Devens. Any monies not used will go back to the foundations they came from, respectively.

- **Eagle Scout Project Community Garden:** Lucas Marshall's Eagle Scout project is to install waist-level raised garden beds for the Eagle House. The Council will need to decide on the best location for the beds. Mr. Lincoln reminded the Council to be mindful of outdoor activities and the location of tents, and the prospective horseshoe pit. Ms. Rabbitt suggested installing the beds close to the spigots for watering. The possibility of a garden club was also discussed.
- **Eagle House Recreation Area:** Mr. Lincoln reported that the shuffleboard court is still curing, and that through volunteer efforts, Lunenburg resident David MacDonald will be grinding, painting the template, and coating the court in the future. Mr. Lincoln also said he's still looking for help with the horseshoe pit. Ms. Dwyer suggested contacting Lunenburg Access Cable to see if they would produce a video featuring outdoor activities at the Eagle House.
- **Discussion of re-opening on Fridays in FY17:** Ms. Doherty reported that the Town Manager is still considering her request to open the Eagle House on Fridays in order to further serve health and wellness and transportation needs of elders in town. Ms. Doherty pointed out that the schools are open, the Teen Center is open, and the DPW is also already open on Fridays. Ms. Lincoln opined that opening the Eagle House 5 days a week is a wonderful idea. Ms. Lincoln moved to make a request to the Town Manager for approval to open the Eagle House on Fridays beginning July 1, 2016. Ms. DiGiacomo seconded. On vote, motion carried unanimously.
- **Handicap push-button door openers:** Ms. Doherty reported she consulted with a representative from Door Concepts Inc., and that for an estimated cost of \$838, through wireless technology, the doors can be opened with a push of a button, rather than the current method of slightly pulling on the door to trigger the automatic-open feature. Ms. Doherty explained that the cost of upgrading the doors could be covered by transferring money from other lines in the COA budget.
- **Discussion of building use/name change:** Ms. Doherty suggested including the word community in to the Eagle House Senior Center name. Mr. Lincoln suggested that the word senior scares baby boomers away from the facility. Mr. McNally opined that changing the name to include the word community would make it seem more inclusive. Most were in agreement that the Eagle House Community and Senior Center would be a nice fit. Ms. Doherty suggested the COA take some time to think on different names and come back with suggestions for the April meeting.

3. **COA Term Limits:** All members who's terms are up in 2016 (Mr. Lincoln, Jane Rabbitt, Judy Tarbell, Kevin McNally, and Jacquelyn Dwyer) have expressed interest in serving another term on the COA. Ms. Doherty said that she has not heard back from the Selectmen's office about the deadline to apply for reappointment.

NOTICES & COMMUNICATIONS

Ms Doherty reported that she received a Thank You card from Lunenburg's Boston Post Cane recipient Sarah Powell after sending her flowers for her 102nd birthday.

The Lunenburg Womens' Club will be meeting at the Eagle House on Fridays starting in October. Ms. Doherty has reserved a cabinet for their tea party supplies in the SHINE office.

The Veterans Affairs representative for Lunenburg T.J. Blausner will be conducting a monthly coffee hour for Vets at the Eagle House on Tuesdays in the upcoming months.

The Uptown Stroll is still in the works. Ms. Grant contacted the Library, and reported that though they might be understaffed on the tentative date of May 21 they are still on board. Ms. Dwyer said the Teen Center is willing to participate, and the Historical Society already expressed interest back in February. Ms. Nowd pointed out that the Lions' Club already has a road block scheduled in the center of town for May 21, and that may spread them thin if they have to cook hamburgers and hot dogs at the Eagle House and run their road block simultaneously. The COA discussed the possibility of pushing the date to June or possibly the fall, but ultimately decided that they want to keep the May 21 date for the Stroll. Rain Date could be Sunday, May 22.

Outreach Coordinator Faith Anderson has collected donations of candy and Easter grass to fill baskets for recipients of Lunenburg's Food Pantry. Any leftover baskets will go to Meals On Wheels clients.

BOARD COMMENT

The movie Brooklyn which features COA member Betty DiGiacomo's grandson will be shown at the end of April at the Eagle House.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Eagle House Supporter liaison Cheryl Aubuchon requested that the Eagle House Supporters meetings be posted in the Eagle House newsletter.

Ms. Grant reported that someone has approached her about people who smoke outside the doors of the Eagle House, and asked her about whether there were rules about smoking so close to the building.

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:45 a.m. Ms. DiGiacomo motioned to adjourn, Ms. Dwyer seconded, on vote motion carried unanimously.