



Emily Williams
Elder Affairs Director

Cole Yeaton Senior Center
10 Wally Krueger Way
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0929
www.bridgewaterma.org

Bridgewater Elder Affairs Commission Meeting

Monday April 13, 2020 3:00pm
Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/941322243> Meeting ID: 941 322 243 Dial in: 646-8769923

Disclosure: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Bridgewater Town Council will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. There will be no in person attendance permitted.

Members:

Chair, David Frim
Vice Chair, Nick Bagas
Treasurer - vacant position
Secretary, Sandy Alley
Bridget Boyle ____
Regina Cohen ____
Joan Colombo ____

Debbie Heckbert ____
Gloria Lemieux ____
Diane Roza ____

Call to order at: _____

1. Approval of March Meeting Minutes
2. Announcements and Holiday Closings: Monday April 20 holiday
3. Subcommittee Reports
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Director's Report
6. Old Business
7. New Business – COVID-19 update, new services
8. Next meeting: May 11 3:00pm Zoom
9. Public Comment
10. Adjournment

Bridgewater:

Preserving Our Past. Enriching Our Present. Building Our Future.



Emily Williams
Elder Affairs Director

Cole Yeaton Senior Center
10 Wally Krueger Way
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0929
www.bridgewaterma.org

March Meeting Minutes:

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 4:30 PM BY CHAIRMAN, DAVID FRIM. DAVID READ A STATEMENT REGARDING LAST MONTH'S MEETING. HE ALSO READ PETER CARATELLI'S RESIGNATION LETTER. GLORIA STATED THAT SHE WAS VERY SAD TO LEARN THAT PETER RESIGNED. PAT BOYLE STATED THAT IT WAS A TERRIBLE LOSS TO LEARN OF PETER'S RESIGNATION. SHE IS VERY UPSET.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WAS READ AND ACCEPTED.

GUEST SPEAKERS: MICHAEL DUTTON AND KIM WILLIAMS

MR. DUTTON WANTED TO LAY OUT THE STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR THE SENIOR CENTER FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS WHICH IS SIMPLY TO PROVIDE PROGRAMS FOR THE ELDERLY IN BRIDGEWATER. HE POINTED OUT THE FUNCTION OF THE EAC.....WE ARE REPRESENTATIVES TO PROMOTE PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES THAT WOULD MAKE A SENIOR CENTER APPROPRIATE.

WE SHOULD SURVEY THE PEOPLE IN THE COMMUNITY TO SEE WHAT THEY EXPECT FROM THE SENIOR CENTER. THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO KNOW THAT THE SENIOR CENTER IS NOT A NURSING HOME!! WE ARE A BEEHIVE OF ACTIVITY AND MORE PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW THIS.

WHEN TIMES GET TOUGH FINANCIALLY, THE SENIOR CENTER AND THE LIBRARY GETS FUNDING CUTS. THE QUESTION IS....WHY DOES THAT HAPPEN? ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY HAVE TO STAY OPEN WHEN TIMES ARE TOUGH! THESE TWO PLACES ARE VALUABLE RESOURCES....ESPECIALLY WHEN TIMES ARE BAD.

REGIONS ARE TREATED DIFFERENTLY AS TO FINANCES THAN AS TO AN INDIVIDUAL TOWN. DAVID AND PAT SUGGESTED OTHER DEPARTMENTS THAT COULD BE CUT INSTEAD.

MR. DUTTON MAKES SURE THAT CUTS ARE MADE WITH SOME THOUGHT AND FOR DEPARTMENTS TO REMAIN STABLE AND CONSISTENT AS POSSIBLE.

UPDATES ON THE SENIOR CENTER BUILDING:

THE KITCHEN AND BATHROOMS ARE FINALLY DONE. CABINETRY AND COUNTER TOPS WILL BE REPLACED IN THE FUNCTION ROOM. A NEW REFRIGERATOR IS COMING.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP IN THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING NEEDS TO BE IMPROVED. THIS WILL REQUIRE AN APPROPRIATION FROM THE CAPITAL FUND.

THE REARRANGING OF SPACE IN THE BUILDING IS GOING ON AND WILL BE A LONG TERM PROJECT.

Bridgewater:

Preserving Our Past. Enriching Our Present. Building Our Future.



Emily Williams
Elder Affairs Director

Cole Yeaton Senior Center
10 Wally Krueger Way
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0929
www.bridgewaterma.org

AS TO THE BACK OF THE BUILDING -- A GOOD CHUNK OF THE EXISTING PARKING LOT WILL STILL BE FOR PARKING AND AN ACTIVITY AREA WILL BE ON THE OTHER SIDE.

THE SENIOR CENTER GROUNDS NEED TO BE IMPROVED AND KEPT UP ON A CONSISTENT TIME LINE. THERE ARE TRAILS THROUGHOUT THE WOODED AREAS ON THE PROPERTY AND WE WOULD LIKE TO CLEAN THEM UP AND IMPROVE THEM IN ORDER FOR THEM TO BE USED.

THE PICKLE BALL COURTS WILL BECOME A REALITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THE TOWN WILL REGRADE A PORTION OF THE AREA OUT BACK, LET IT SIT FOR AWHILE AND THEN IT WILL BE PAVED HOPEFULLY BY SUMMER. THIS AREA WILL BE FENCED IN.

AS TO WHO PAYS FOR WHAT---THE CAPITAL PLAN HAS ABOUT 180 MILLION AND 15 MILLION IS SLATED FOR ROADS AND DRAINAGE. 10 TO 15 MILLION IS SLATED FOR THE FIRE STATION. NEEDS IN THE TOWN FOR FUNDS ARE ANALYZED AND RANKED. THE CAPITAL PLAN WILL BE UNVEILED APRIL 1.

THE FRONT PARKING LOT AT THE SENIOR CENTER MAY BE MERGED WITH THE NEW SCHOOL PROJECT. MR DUTTON EXPLAINED HOW THE NEW ROADWAY COMING IN FROM BEDFORD ST. TO THE NEW SCHOOL WILL BE UTILIZED.

THERE WILL BE AN OUTREACH MEETING APRIL 23, 2020 AT 1:00 PM.

DAVID BROUGHT UP STAFFING IN ORDER TO HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS.

POSITIONS HAVE TO BE ANALYZED BEFORE HIRING SOMEONE. AT THIS POINT KIM WILLIAMS TOOK OVER THE DISCUSSION.

WE HAVE A NEW PART TIME MEALS ON WHEELS COORDINATOR -- DEB

SINCE OCTOBER THERE HAS BEEN A 25% INCREASE IN VOLUNTEERISM. WE NEED TO ENCOURAGE MORE PEOPLE TO COME AND PARTICIPATE IN PROGRAMS AND TO VOLUNTEER.

PAT BOYLE STATED THAT 3 STAFF PEOPLE HAVE LEFT. WHAT IS BEING DONE TO REPLACE THEM? TWO OF THEM WERE GRANT FUNDED SO HOW WILL THE TOWN PAY FOR THIS NEW POSITION? KIM STATED THAT THERE ARE 12 JOBS AVAILABLE IN THE TOWN AND THEY CAN'T BE FILLED!

INSTEAD OF A PART TIME POSITION, HIRE A FULL TIME PERSON WITH BENEFITS THEN RECRUIT THE RIGHT PERSON FOR THE JOB.



Emily Williams
Elder Affairs Director

Cole Yeaton Senior Center
10 Wally Krueger Way
Bridgewater, MA 02324
508-697-0929
www.bridgewaterma.org

PAT ALSO STATED THAT SHE IS CONCERNED ABOUT PERSONNEL SAFETY. NO ONE SHOULD BE IN THE BUILDING ALONE. KIM STATED THAT SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT AND EMPLOYEES NEED TO BE TRAINED IN ORDER TO FEEL SAFE.

GLORIA TOOK A MOMENT TO PRAISE THE WORK THAT KATHY HAYES DOES ON A DAILY BASIS AND ALL AGREED.

REGARDING THE SENIOR CENTER, MR DUTTON SPOKE OF A ONE TO TWO YEAR PROJECTION GOAL TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN QUALITY OF LIFE AT THE SENIOR CENTER.

ON A CLOSING NOTE, MR. DUTTON BRIEFLY TOLD OF THE DOWNTOWN REDEVELOPMENT, THE FIRE STATION AREA, INCLUDING HOUSING (NOT PARTICULARLY FOR STUDENT HOUSING), THE EMPTY TOWN HALL WITH A POSSIBLE CULTURAL CENTER (MAYBE INVOLVE BSU), RECONFIGURATION OF CENTRAL SQUARE (3 DIFFERENT OPTIONS), RECRUITING QUALITY CANDIDATES FOR POSITIONS, UPDATING STORM WATER REGULATIONS (VERY COSTLY), UPGRADE SEWER PLANT (35 MILLION) UPGRADE WOULD BE OVER 15 YEARS, NEW WATER FILTRATION PLANT SCHEDULED FOR FALL.

MR. DUTTON AND KIM WILLIAMS LEFT THE MEETING AT 6:05.

DAVID WENT OVER THE SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT.

THERE IS AN UPCOMING TRIP TO FOXWOODS. \$30.00 PER PERSON.

JOAN COLOMBO ASKED IF WE COULD CHANGE OUR MEETING TIME FROM 4:30 TO 3:00 PM BEGINNING IN APRIL. ALL AGREED ON THE NEW TIME.

EMILY GAVE HER DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

THE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM IS UPDATED. THE VAN WILL BE AVAILABLE ON MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY TO GO TO WALMART, MARKET BASKET, KOHLS, CASTLE ISLAND, DERBY ST, CAPE COD MALL, ETC. EACH RIDE WILL BE \$5.00 PER PERSON. SHE ALSO SPOKE ABOUT THE REUNION PROJECT.

FRANK SOUZA TOLD US ABOUT THE ROAD CONSTRUCTION FOR THE NEW SCHOOL AS IT PERTAINS TO THE SENIOR CENTER. THERE WILL BE NO TRUCKS ALLOWED ON THE ROAD UNLESS THEY ARE WORKING ON THE ROAD. HE ALSO PASSED OUT A FLYER FOR THE MASTER PLAN FOR BRIDGEWATER AND ASKED US TO GO ON LINE AND FILL OUT THE SURVEY.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE APRIL 13, 2020 AT 3:00 P.M.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

SANDRA ALLEY, SECRETARY, EAC

Bridgewater:

Preserving Our Past. Enriching Our Present. Building Our Future.