

March 10, 2022

Present: Colleen Schaller, Chair; Helen Gregory, Lianne Relich, Penny Grossman, Sandra Prinn, Carol DeLemos, Ed Cosgrove, Dan Goldberg, Ted Prorok, VFW representative

COA: Latanya Steele, Director; Jessica Moss, Social Work

Meeting called to order by Ms. Schaller, Board Chair at 5:05 pm combination of in person and on Zoom

Ms. Schaller and Mr. Cosgrove called for a minute of silence for Ukraine. A minute was observed. Ms. Schaller read a quote from Jim Hendrix When the Power of Love overcomes the Love of Power the World will know peace.

Social Work Report, Ms. Jessica Moss

Ms. Moss noted it has been another busy month. She is working on a grant application with Youth and Family Services to fund a sensory room (special lights and seating) in the therapy room that could be used for seniors in the mornings and by youth in the afternoons. Companies will come into to assess the space. This is possible as it is likely COA will have one intern versus two next year and so this space can be utilized. Ms. Jill McGovern is curriculum training to design a new program for solo agers around the ideas of support and strategy. She is also starting an in-person bereavement group to add to the Zoom one that has been working well. Ms. Kerrie Cusack is working on a new yoga course with focus on stress reduction mind/body mindfulness.

In answer to a question Ms. Moss noted she has sufficient volunteers for the current building use.

Mr. Cosgrove asked about the status of the fitness room and Ms. Moss noted they are adding five pieces of equipment and some will replace older, outdated equipment. The new grant funded Fit Bits will be paired with already owned tablets to assist with progress tracking. This will be matched with a certificate for the fitness room.

Ms. Schaller and Mr. Cosgrove noted that we are one of the few senior centers in the State that has a fitness room and regular staffing.

SHINE REPORT, Ms. Michelle Gucciardi, Director

Ms. Gucciardi is finishing the second round of interviews for the Assistant Director SHINE position (her old position) and she hopes to have the person on board soon.

The counselors continue to do great work.

An April appreciation lunch is in the planning stages --the first time in two years! A Zoom option will be part of the event for those who do not yet feel comfortable in person.

She also has some State earmarked grant money that will be spent aligned with the State goals by end of fiscal year.

New Vehicle Report

It will be operational soon. One more driver position is being advertised. Ms. Moss noted the COA is relying on volunteer drivers for meals. Michael Beard has started.

Minutes

Ms. Schaller requested a motion to approve minutes of February 10. The minutes were edited to note Kathy Whitney as a member only. Ms. Gregory made a motion to approve the amended minutes and Mr. Cosgrove seconded. The Board unanimously approved the amended minutes.

New Member Needed

Mary Elizabeth Weadock resigned. She has not been able to make the meetings for a year and feels it is best to offer the position to a new person. Ms. Schaller reached out to Miles Tucker in Town Hall who works with the Selectboard. She inquired if one of the two recent interviewees for the winter open positions could be contacted to fill this vacancy. Mr. Tucker noted there was no historical precedent for this.

Mr. Goldberg made a motion –**The Board recommends that the Select Board fill the existing vacancy with a person who was on the list of applicants that we just selected the two new members from.** Mr. Cosgrove seconded the motion. The motion in support of using the recent Board candidate list passed unanimously. Ms. Schaller will mention the Board support when she reaches out to Ms. Marianne Cooley, one of the Select Board directly.

Update on Housing Initiative, Helen Gregory

Ms. Gregory noted there is another meeting later tonight.

Minutes and the meeting packets are on the town website. She noted it is extremely accessible and comprehensive and also in the Needham Times. The Board noted that the Needham Times is no longer delivered to many households in the town and is available generally only in town hall and the library.

Ms. Gregory noted they are dividing into four subgroups. The groups are zoning, capacity building, housing preservation and housing development. Ms. Gregory is on the housing development and Mr. Cosgrove is on the housing preservation to deal with the Chambers Street Housing Authority area renovation plans. Mr. Cosgrove noted the Town has received some funding to study/plan for the renovations. Mr. Cosgrove noted Public Health gets regular complaints on mold and dampness in these old buildings. Mr. Cosgrove noted it will need to be a phased project.

Ms. Gregory noted that the Community Housing Workshop is on March 24.

VFW Representative, Ted Prorok,

Mr. Prorok noted he had brought a copy of flag retirement box discussed at February's meeting. Mr. Kravetz is in discussion with the head of the transfer station to have a more elaborate version of the Post's box at the transfer station in a prominent location; near the booth where people pay to dispose

of items is one idea. He noted that the transfer station is in discussion with the Town. Mr. Prorok will raise the issue at their Board of Director's meeting March 31 to see if progress has been made. He will plan to advertise it on the bulletin board at the COA as well. He inquired if there might also be a smaller box at the COA for seniors to utilize and he could then transfer them to the VFW Post box. He also noted they are pleased to have the Memorial Day Vietnam Veterans breakfast back on March 29th as a Veteran's Day event took place in November 2021 but COVID prevented the March 2021 event.

Mr. Prorok noted that their Post chaplain Tom Keating will possibly advertise it in the paper.

A copy of the proposed flag retirement box is attached.

Mr. Prorok noted he will have another idea at the April Board meeting to benefit both veterans and non veteran seniors. Ms. Schaller noted she is pleased to have new proposals as that was the reason for wanting to fill the Veteran's Board position.

New Business

None

Ms. Prinn made a motion to adjourn; Ms. Grossman seconded this motion. The board unanimously adjourned at 5:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Faith Crisley

Recording Secretary





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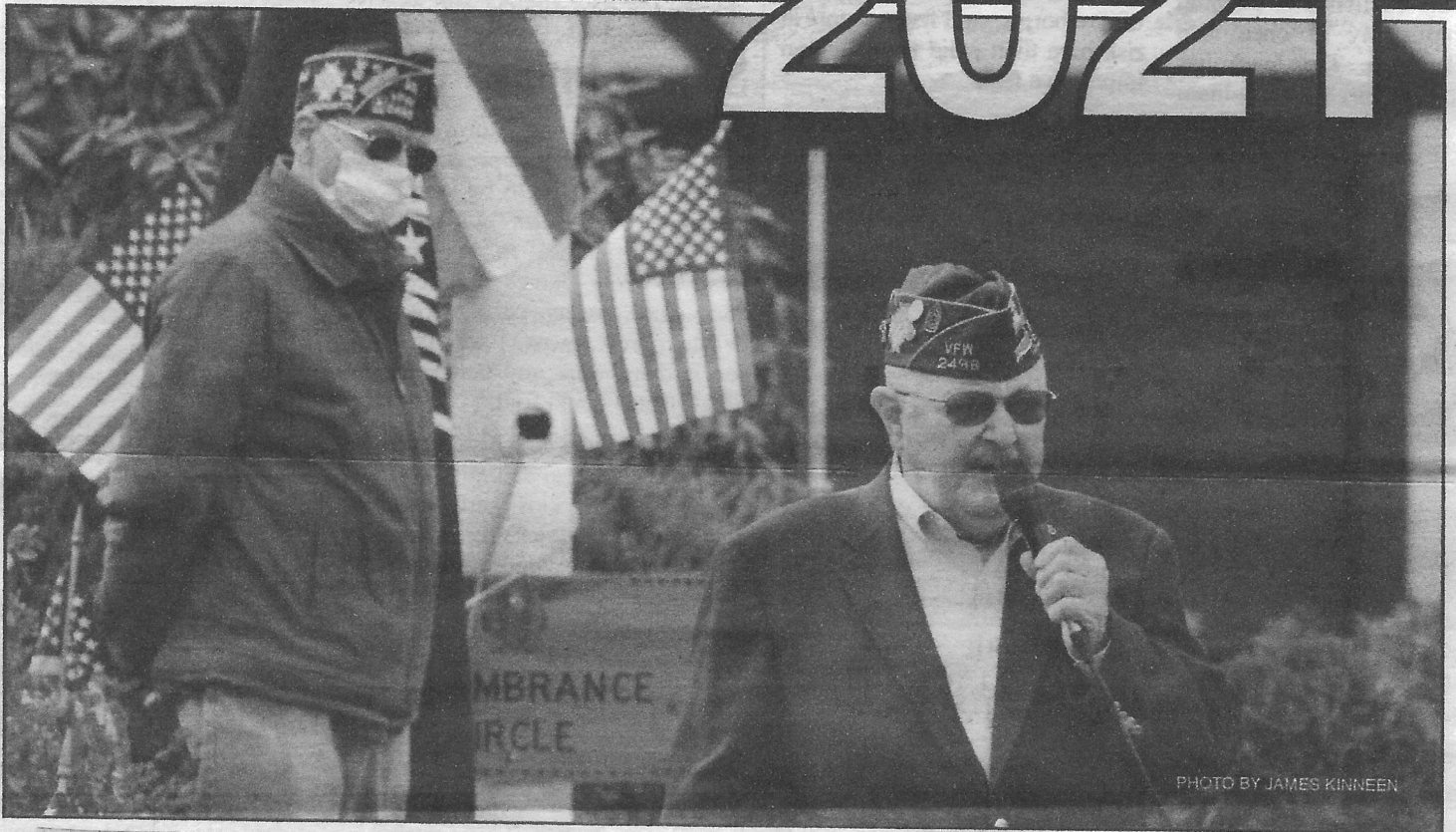


PHOTO BY JAMES KINNEEN

Sunset Road event honors Vietnam veterans

"While many Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and other events that honor Americans who served in the armed forces have moved to the internet on platforms like Zoom, on Monday, the Needham Vietnam Veteran's Memorial on

Sunset Road hosted a live, in-person ceremony in honor of National Vietnam War Veterans Day," reported James Kinneen. "Officially signed into law in 2017, the annual observance is held on March 29, the date in 1973

when the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (often known as MACV) was disbanded and the last American combat troops left the war-torn country.

"Rep. Denise Garlick likely best explained the day's significance when she declared: 'We all know how they were not honored when they came home, but our presence today honors them.'" "beyond."