

Director's Report for November 2021

Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging

12.20.21

Kitchen/Meals:

MOC Meals (Mondays and some Wednesdays) are lightly attended. Special meals funded by the COVID grant are more popular, with 15-30 attendees. Due to several Friday closures in December, meals were rearranged, and the Board of Health was notified of changes to the December one-day permits. The oven does not work properly; The Director is looking into repairs. A capital request was submitted to Capital Planning Committee for kitchen renovations.

Transportation:

Regionalized dispatch will begin in January. It was set to start 12/13, but MART had delays on their side. There are no plans to regionalize drivers/rides at this time.

Software:

The MySeniorCenter software purchase was approved by the Selectmen and Finance Committee, funded by a reserve fund transfer. Training was conducted 12/17/21 and will be rolled out in January.

Newsletter:

Seniors News Publications has released us from our contract. The newsletter will be printed in-house until a suitable replacement printer can be found.

Programming:

November programming was largely successful, except for the oven performance. Seniors seem happy to be back in the building and have been very helpful with suggestions. The upcoming holiday and (almost) New Years Eve parties will be well-attended. It will take time to build awareness and boost participation. Director is keeping an eye on the latest COVID surge and potential programming modifications.

Budget:

Spending is on track, after accounting for the funds to update the space. The COVID food grant funds are being enjoyed by the seniors. Changes will be requested for the FY'23 budget to more closely align with increased programming.

Opportunities to Volunteer or Senior Tax Workoff:

- Receptionists: 3 hours shifts to answer phones, roll silverware, set tables, etc
- Exercise Instructor
- Data Entry
- Meals on Wheels Drivers
- Social Media Manager

Publicity & Outreach:

Updates to the town website are underway, and the COA Facebook page is now live. Both will be updated as time permits and/or a suitable volunteer is found.

New Building:

The Building Committee had it's first meeting on 12/15/21. All are eager to move forward.