

**Director's Report for January 2022**  
**Ayer Senior Center / Council on Aging**  
1.20.22

**Kitchen/Meals:**

Due to the cost of the kitchen renovation rising to nearly \$112,000, the Town Manager recommended that the Capital Planning Committee not pursue funding the project, but instead pursue development of a quality senior meal program to combat isolation and food insecurity via a proposed increase to the COA departmental budget for FY'23.

**Transportation:**

Regionalized dispatch once again is delayed by software bugs, so we will continue with pen & paper scheduling for January. There are no plans to regionalize drivers/rides at this time.

**Software:**

The MySeniorCenter rollout has begun. Seniors seem willing to participate.

**Newsletter:**

In-house printing is going well. The proposed FY'23 budget includes funds for more toner, & quarterly bulk mail.

**Programming:**

January program attendance is down slightly, likely due to the COVID-surge. Meals are a combination of socially distanced congregate dining, and delivery meals. The vast majority are funded by the CDBG COVID Food Grant. The mask-free exercise class is once again masked until after the surge recedes. After MySenior Center is implemented, the next most important priorities are building an arts & crafts program, and reaching community-dwelling seniors.

**Budget:**

Thanks to the COA Board for their input on the FY'23 budget proposal. After a positive reception from the Town Manager during an informal meeting, the COA will seek funding to support the following changes to the existing budget:

- Restoring Nutrition Coordinator position at 20-25 hours a week
- Improving COA signage on Main Street
- Covering in-house toner and paper expenses for the newsletter
- Funding a meal program (\$6K-10K, depending on kitchen renovation outcome)
- Increasing programming funds
- New computer for Debbie

**Opportunities to Volunteer or Senior Tax Workoff:**

- Receptionists: 3 hours shifts to answer phones, roll silverware, set tables, etc
- Special Meals on Wednesdays (and one Friday) in January
- 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 its first meeting on 12/15/21. All are eager to move forward, and are considering all options and sites. Abacus attended the January COA meeting to update programming/space needs.