# **St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)**

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **November 4, 2019**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:00 AM by Patrick Rourk, Chairman

**Present:** *(voting members):* Patrick Rourk, Roger Bennett, Linda Wilkinson, Bob Mead

Gail Bisonette, Gail Teele, Larry Denesha, Kathy Skelly

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Chiara Delosh, Andrea Montgomery, Dana McGuire

Brenda Sanderson, Michael Boprey, Barb McBurnie, Vicki Clark, Andrea Smith

**Present:** *(New Members/Pending BOL approval)*

**Excused**: Carlton Doane, Russ Backus

**Absent:**

**Public Attending:** Sarah Carsman, Phil Shatraw, Kay DePerno, Myrtle Regan

**Meeting Location:** Human Services Building

**♦Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by P. Rourk. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection. Welcome and introductions.

**♦Guest Speaker –** R. Bennett gave the report on the 4 Year Needs Assessment Survey that was collected by the OFA. An email on the report was sent out to everyone.

**♦Public Comment** – No public comments

♦**Approval/Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by R. Bennett, seconded by B. Mead, all in favor.

# Motion passed.

♦**Correspondence** *(Linda Wilkinson)* – Sent a thank you card to Kasey Stewart for being our guest speaker at September meeting.

**♦Old Business**– no old business

**♦New Business** –

**Nominating Committee**- P. Rourk stated that there is a selection for Committee for February Office Election. Linda is the sole member from the last time. P. Rourk nominates Linda for chair committee. A. Montgomery mentioned that in February there will be an election for Chairman, Vice Chairman and Correspondence Secretary, so this is a nominating committee where you meet to come up with a slate for candidates. P. Rourk stated the committee will be Linda, Gail and Kathy.

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** *(Brenda Sanderson)* Last meeting was held in Star Lake. Had Trisha Story there as a guest speaker to talk about tick and Lyme disease. Is in the process of presenting a slate of officers for their group. Next meeting is at the Best Western on November 14th @ 9. Dietician from United Helpers, Linda Buchanan, will be presenting.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report (***Barb McBurnie)* Went to a convention last month in Saratoga Springs. There was 15 people from our county that attended. There was a guest speaker that spoke about budget issues. There will be a meeting this Thursday at the Best Western. Trying to get Mark Walczyk to speak at one of the meetings.

**Veterans Services Report** *(Mike Boprey)* Veteran Benefit’s big thing is pension. Pension is a good way to go for high out of pocket expenses. Blue Water Veterans are still dealing with effects of contaminated water. Up to $1 million in retroactive money.

**Public Health Report** – *(Dana McGuire)* Lead outreach surveys from the nutrition sites, schools and daycares are back. There is a big billboard in Gouverneur, and a new one in Ogdensburg that advertises lead outreach. YES FM has a lead announcement on their radio station. Will be doing another survey regarding lead. The opioid grant is moving forward. There will be a doctor from Buffalo doing a training for providers, and the doctor will be meeting with hospital systems. There will be a Task Force meeting this Friday at the new hotel. The doctor from Buffalo will be attending this meeting. Flu season is here. They will be giving shots on Wednesday of this month. Bad weather will be coming. What plan do you have for an emergency or a kit in the car.

**County Legislator’s Report** *(Larry Denesha)* There is a new director of Emergency Services. He did a wonderful job when we got the high winds recently. The 2020 Budget is going in front of public hearing tonight. This is the second year in a row that the county hasn’t borrowed money. How things are looking there won’t be a tax increase. In the October board meeting they passed a resolution for an extra 3 days off for veterans.

**AARP Report**- *(Peg Walrich)* V. Clark gave the report in P. Walrich absence. Peg is stepping back from AARP because she had surgery. October 15 luncheon included communication from Board of Elections on if we can be hacked during election, and their response was no because we still do paper voting instead of electronical voting. On November 8 they will be partnering with Canton-Potsdam Hospital on a presentation regarding Alzheimer and Dementia. The guest speaker will be Rich Couch from the Alzheimer’s Association. Free lunch is from 11:30 AM-12:00 PM; the presentation is from 12-1 PM 2nd Floor Conference Rooms A&B at CPH. RSVP to Deborah on or before November 4. November 12 is Native American Heritage Month and that will be held at the Town of Potsdam Town Hall Community room from 11:45 AM – 1:30 PM. The luncheon is catered and will cost $12. The presenter is Susan Stebbins, Ph.D. Her topic will be Our Neighbors: the Iroquois. AARP Is finalizing the OFA tote for the holiday basket giveaway. Social Security is supposed to increase to 1.6% for 2020.

**Office for the Aging Report** *(Andrea Montgomery)*

* Was given a 10 day notice that staffing at the Canton Nutrition Center was going to end. Used unmet needs funding for Canton Nutrition. We are always looking for volunteers.
* Survey results for the 4 years needs assessment will go into writing our 4 year plan.
* The Holiday Basket Drive is going on right now.
* Open Enrollment is going on right now until December 7.
* HEAP opens on November 12.

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by B. Mead, seconded by B. Sanderson, all in favor.

P. Rourk adjourned meeting at 11:05 AM.

**♦Next Meeting** – February 10, 2020, Human Services Center, Canton: 2nd Floor Conference Room at 10 AM

*(Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*