

TOWN OF SUDBURY  
COUNCIL ON AGING  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
January 14, 2020

WEBSITE: <http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CouncilOnAging/>

**Present:** Chairman: John Beeler

**Members Present:** Connie Steward, Patricia Tabloski, Sandy Lasky, , Jeff Levine, Bob Lieberman.

**Also Attending:** Deb Galloway, Director of Senior Center

**Associate Members Present:** Jack Ryan and Carmine Gentile

**Excused:** Amy Unckless

**Guests:** Pat Brown (Select Board member)

Meeting called to order by Chairman John Beeler at 3:07 PM

Minutes of December 10, 2019 unanimously approved.

**Director's Report: (Galloway)** The LINC program continues and will start up again in February. The suite of "balance" and "fall" prevention programs will also start shortly. For further details see attached report.

See attached report.

**Fairbank Community Center (Beeler/Levine)-** A discussion of the current slow to "No" progress ensued. Frustrations ran high. The COA has assigned various members to bring forth a communication plan for both the May annual meeting which ideally can be supported by the other tenants. Other members have been asked to monitor closely "social media" communications towards developing a plan to address as many of the public's concerns as possible before the May Annual Meeting. All members are building an integrated presentation for the Jan. 29 Forum.

The COA continues to fully support the Working Group Nov. 19, 2019 Concept proposal. Strong support of the Total Proposal is critical to the needs of the town's user groups.

**BayPath (Tabloski):** Name change to reflect broader age groups being served is now in effect. New name is "Life Ways".

**Possible Article for May Meeting supporting unique support for "Gold Star" Families (Galloway):** The town clerk ??? has asked if COA would sponsor this Article which is encouraged by the State legislature known as "BRAVE" act (Copy Attached) . COA will review on January 21, 2020 meeting. Any delay beyond January 21, 2020 will cause a delay in approval to 2021.

**Dementia Friendly Update (Galloway) –** No further update.

**Transportation:** (Lasky/Galloway) – see these links to the Sudbury Transportation Committee:

[12.09 Minutes](#)

[SudburyTransportationCommittee 2019 Dec 09 minutes.pdf](#); AND

[Agendas](#)

[SudburyTransportationCommittee 2020 Jan 03 agenda.pdf](#)

[SudburyTransportationCommittee 2020 Jan 15 agenda.pdf](#)

[SudburyTransportationCommittee 2020 Jan 21 agenda.pdf](#)

**Membership Committee (Beeler)** There will be at least two openings on the COA for consideration at the May COA meeting. Posting for candidates will begin this month (January).

**Approval of two COA Revolving accounts.** COA unanimously approved and all signed appropriate documents to place these annual Articles on the Warrant for May Annual Meeting.

A vote for Adjournment was unanimous at 4:40 PM Motion: Levine, Seconded: Lasky.

Next scheduled meeting January 21, 2020 at 3:00 PM at the Senior Center. This is a special meeting and agenda has been posted. In preparation for the town wide discussions of the Community Center proposal(s) these added dates have been reserved for possible COA meetings.

1. January 27, 2020 Monday
2. February 4, 2020 Tuesday
3. February 11, 2020 Tuesday

Respectfully Submitted:

Robert May  
Secretary

### **COA Meeting – Senior Center Director’s Report**

#### **Article for Gold Star Families**

The Town Assessor Cynthia Gerry wondered if the COA would like to sponsor an article for Town Meeting to adopt as local option the BRAVE Act – a property tax exemption for Gold Star families.

## **Transportation Committee**

The Transportation Committee continues its work. The Committee reviewed and provided feedback to the latest version of the Uber/Town service agreement at the meeting on Jan. 2. The Committee meets again on Jan. 15 tomorrow. The Committee members reviewed the “run through” of the registration process.

Received a call today from a commuter from Sudbury to Natick. He is in his 50s and heard about pilot at the Master plan meeting. He was wondering if he is eligible – but didn’t want to use all funds when others might need it. If he did use it – would use for conference in Boston – to avoid commute and parking issues.

## **Dementia Friendly**

The Dementia Friendly Sudbury Action Team meets again on Thursday, Jan. 16.

## **Publicity**

I emailed information to the Town Crier/MW Daily News and invited them to talk with us. They responded with request to interview Janet and see the Medical Equipment Loan closet; I hope everyone saw the lovely article that resulted from it. We hope to highlight additional programs in the same way.

## **Programs**

We are working on Intergenerational program (LINC) with SP schools, a new session is starting on Feb. 27.

New Matter of Balance Health Aging Workshop starts end of March. This workshop is for those who have fallen or at risk of falling. Provides education, support and self-advocacy skills.

We held a “How to Safely Rise from a Fall” workshop, hosted by two Physical Therapists. It was very popular – trying to get more scheduled.

Submitted by Debra Galloway, Director, Sudbury Senior Center

## **Veterans benefit update from Secretary of State INFO GATHERED BY BOB MAY**

### **BRAVE Act**

#### **Recent Legislation:**

In August of 2018, the Acts of 2018, Chapter 218, (Senate 2632) known as the BRAVE Act was passed providing additional support to veterans and their families. Here is a brief summary of these benefits of which some are still to be implemented. For a complete listing of the Acts of 2018, Chapter 218, (Senate 2632) go

to: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2018/Chapter218>

Effective immediately:

April 5th shall be designated as Gold Star Wives Day.

The last Sunday in September shall be designated as Gold Star Mothers and Families Day.

Allows Gold Star license plates to be assigned to commercial vehicles.

Provides time off on Memorial Day and Veterans' Day (with, or without pay at the discretion of the employer).

Increases veterans' local property tax work-off program from \$1,000.00 to \$1,500.00.

Extends the Veterans' Bonus Program administered by the Treasurer's Office

To be implemented:

The Department of Veterans Services shall create, publish, and update annually a list of law firms and organization that provide pro-bono legal representation for veterans.

Parents or surviving guardians of veterans, who died in service for our country to may receive a real estate tax credit on property beginning January 1, 2019.

The Department of Veterans Services in partnership with the Department of Agricultural Resources shall establish the Massachusetts Veterans and Warriors Agriculture Program.

The Treasurer's office shall create a "Payment Appeals Board" to address concerns of verterans who's application for bonuses may have been denied through a hearing process.

Municipalities may designate and reserve for veterans a parking space at their city or town hall.

**William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth**

# Veterans' Laws and Benefits

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## Property Tax Exemptions

### Eligible veterans, spouses, and parents

To qualify, all veterans (and spouses where applicable) must:

- Be legal residents of Massachusetts.
- Be occupying the property as his/her domicile on July 1 in the year of application.
- Have lived in Massachusetts for at least six months prior to entering the service (spouses exempted) or,
- Have lived in Massachusetts for five consecutive years immediately prior to filing for a property tax exemption.

In most cases a surviving spouse receives the exemption if he/she was receiving it before the veteran passed away. However, surviving spouses receiving exemption under Clauses 22 and 22D lose the exemption upon remarriage.

### M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22

Clause 22 allows for a \$400.00 tax exemption for the following persons:

- 10% (or more) service-connected disabled veteran;
- Purple Heart recipient;
- Gold Star mothers and fathers;
- Spouse of veteran entitled under Clause 22;
- Surviving spouses who do not remarry.

### M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22A

Clause 22A allows for a tax exemption of \$750.00 if the veteran meets the following:

- Loss or loss of use of one hand above the wrist, or one foot above the ankle or one eye;
- Congressional Medal of Honor;
- Distinguished Service Cross;
- Navy Cross or Air Force Cross.

### M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22B

Clause 22B allows for tax exemption of \$1,250.00 if the veteran meets the following:

- Loss or loss of use of both hands or both feet;
- Loss or loss of use of one hand and one foot as described above;
- Loss or loss of use of both eyes (blind).

### M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22C

Clause 22C allows for tax exemption of \$1,500.00 if the veteran:

- Is rated by the VA to be permanent and totally disabled and has specially adapted housing.

### M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22D

Clause 22D is for surviving spouses (who do not remarry) of soldiers, sailors, or members of the Guard whose death occurred as a proximate result of an injury sustained or disease contracted in a combat zone, or who are missing in action with a presumptive finding of death, as a result of combat as members of the armed forces of the United States.

- Total exemption so long as the spouse does not remarry.

### M.G.L. ch. 59, s.5, clause 22E

Clause 22nd E allows for \$1,000.00 for veterans that are 100% disabled by the VA.

## **M.G.L. ch. 58, s.8A**

Paraplegic veterans, those with service-related injuries as determined by the VA, or their surviving spouses are eligible for total exemption on their property taxes.

### **Where to apply**

To apply, contact the assessor's office in your community. Application must be made annually. For property tax exemptions for disabled veterans, contact your local assessor's office or:

### **Department of Revenue**

Division of Local Services Bureau of Municipal Finance Laws

100 Cambridge Street (no walk in service)

Boston, MA 02210

Tel: 617-626-2300

Fax: 617-626-2330

[/www.mass.gov/orgs/orgs/division-of-local-services](http://www.mass.gov/orgs/orgs/division-of-local-services)