

Tompkins County Office for the Aging

Advisory Committee Meeting

April 24, 2023

Hybrid

9:30am

Members present: Stamm, Hatch, Beyers, Lesser, Hatch, Izbicki, Hultberg, Roe

Liaisons: Burger, Evans, Askew, Hillson, Klein, Wells

Staff: Monroe, Bullis, Willer (intern)

Public: Lawrence

1. Hart called the meeting to order at 9:30am.
2. Meeting minutes from March 2023 approved.
3. Public comment: No public comment
4. Member comment: Izbicki talked about the proposed flood map changes in the City of Ithaca. Two upcoming meetings by FEMA. Flood plan showed vast parts of the city who do not currently have to have flood insurance, will now have to. Concerned about the effect on seniors.

Bullis provided information on the time and location of the two open houses. These “open houses” are purely informational at this time. Bullis will forward the press release information to the group. Lawrence asked about a specific link that talks about the open houses. Monroe stated that there is, and it will be in the information that we send out.

Lawrence mentioned that she has experience that there are ways to get placed out of the flood zone if you want, it just involves getting better measurements of your property- especially if you are on the border of a flood zone.

5. COFA Update-Monroe:
 - Annual Update: still working on it and hope to get it out soon. Might do the advisory board review via email. More to come.
 - Open House is May 12th 1pm-4pm at COFA; Outstanding Volunteer will be recognized as well (had 8 nominations)-this open house is counted as our May meeting; Annual Report will be available as well
6. Liaison Reports:
 - a. Burger: Lifelong-
 - Tax season is done. Don’t have final numbers yet but served close to 900 taxpayers this year with 30 volunteers
 - Hosting a Volunteer Fair, Wednesday May 10th from 10am - 12pm; so far have 20 nonprofits who will be represented

- Created a booklet of nonprofit organizations in Tompkins County who are looking for volunteers. Includes their contact information, what skill they are looking for, etc.
- Annual Meeting, May 25th at Hotel Ithaca at noon; can register by calling Lifelong or online, \$25.00. Ann Dolan will be speaking.
- Hosting annual Silent Auction June 1st -9th

b. Evans: Foodnet-

- May 3rd; 4:30-7pm Mac n Cheese Bowl at Farmer's Market; have 23 kinds of mac n cheese, tickets are on sale now; 20 vendors will be tabling with information
- First day of launch of Congregate dining at Titus Towers; M-F 11-1:30; open to county residents 60+ and their partners/spouses; need to register in advance, contact Foodnet. Goal is to then branch out to Groton

c. Hillson: TCWH-

- COVID vaccine schedule is moving away from the monovalent-just the bivalent is available now; will continue to hear more of the booster schedule over next few months.
- Community Health Worker Program-have an open position; community health work specifically perinatal and infant health; currently have 4 community health positions and two are focused on perinatal as well as more broad populations; reach out to Sam if you want to learn more

d. Klein: TC Legislature-

- FEMA flood maps; extra properties are in these 100 year flood zones; can access the maps on county website or contact your legislator representative and they can tell you if you are in these zones
- Two Open Houses this week April 26th and 27th.

Monroe asked what part of the process was this? Is this a "done deal"? Klein commented that he understands that this is a done deal. May be ways to contest it. Klein stated that there hasn't been much conversation/solutions around the impact this many have

- Currently in the annual foreclosure process; currently 20 properties on the list. Process goes through June.
- Kicking off budget process; no state budget yet, operating a bit in the dark; going to do the best they can to get started on the process.

Hart asked if you own your property and don't have a mortgage can you decline the flood insurance? Izbicki stated that it does not matter, if you opt out of the insurance you will have a lien if you have a mortgage. Lesser stated that he believes that's how it goes, that if you do not have a mortgage you do not have to sign up for flood insurance.

Lawrence asked if the state budget is still proposing to move Medicaid costs to county. Klein said yes, with that and another state mandate the calculation is that it will cost the county an extra 4.4 million dollars

e. Askew: StateWide-

- Teach in April 25th 10am-11am; all teach ins are free and available to the public; past recordings are available on website
- Budget briefing recordings are also available
- Will be at mac n cheese bowl; any tabling events please let them know
- Seeing a big uptick in covid test kit fraud; report hearing that people are receiving tests in the mail that they did not order; can call StateWide if they have concerns or need to report anything; also scams stating that since the end of the emergency, they will be receiving a new Medicare card
- Anyone facing medical debt, please send them to StateWide

7. Discussion: Kristen Wells, Executive Director at Gadabout

- Provides 3 types of service
- Provides rides to older adults 55+
- M-F 8:00-4:30; \$2 within city of Ithaca \$3 outside city of Ithaca
- ADA Paratransit service through TCAT; compliments the fixed route service; goes within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the TCAT route
- New Freedom: grant based service that extends $\frac{3}{4}$ mile corridor and times for ADA service. Limited to driver availability.
- New GPS software upcoming; client notification system; will also allow drivers to alert riders when they are on their way. Increases responsiveness with the goal of accommodating same day ride requests
- Provides rides for any purpose, not just medical
- Need more drivers; actively recruiting; require a minimum of Class C license with a rider endorsement.
- Gadabout is still offering free rides to covid vaccines

Lesser asked if there was a possibility that the fleet would go electric in the future? Wells expressed her concerns around infrastructure, i.e., charging them, keeping them charged. Not sure the timing is right.

8. No old business

Next meeting will be Open House in May.

Next formal meeting will be June 26, 2023

Meeting adjourned 10:40am