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## Council On Aging Board Meeting Agenda

**Date:**

Tuesday, December 19, 2023 - 9:00am

Senior Center Community Room at the Bolton Country Manor, 600 Main St.

**Related Event:**

[Council On Aging Board Meeting](#)

Council On Aging Board Meeting Agenda 12/19/23

9:00am -9:05am	Citizen's Comments
9:05am - 9:15am	Reading of Minutes from November 2023 COA Meeting
	Approval of November 2023 COA Minutes
	Financial Report
9:15 – 11:39am	FOBS Update
	Outreach/Program Coordinator's Report
	Other Board Concerns and Discussion
	Director's Report

**Source URL:**<https://www.townofbolton.com/council-aging-coa/agenda/council-aging-board-meeting-agenda-10>

Town of Bolton C.O.A. Meeting  
December 19, 2023

Meeting at the Senior Center

Members Present: Panny Gerken, Chair; Barbara Brown, Tom Byron, Chuck McCormack, Janet Smith, Shirley Sefton

Heather Goodsell, FOBS Mary Ciummo

A quorum being present, the meeting opened about 9:06 AM.

The minutes from the November COA meeting were approved.

Financials: See handout. In decent shape. Note: building lease always paid 3 months out.

FOBS: thanks to volunteers, and especially Mary Boyd for help with assembly then delivery of Christmas baskets. Today is carols, with a pianist and trumpet! January is an historical walking self tour of historic town center. February is Harvey Leonard, on the 45 anniversary of the blizzard of '78: should it be here or Davis Hall?

Heather's Outreach report: See handout. Grief support group has had no participants: perhaps a special program, or new way will work? Mart is expanding the pilot, which will take up some of Heather's time. The new Mart shuttle is starting up: see the (old) flyer. Home pickups are available if you call 24 hours in advance. It's starting small and will expand over time. The COA needs a grant writer, as do other groups in town. Go Bolton money ends ~~Jan-1<sup>st</sup>~~<sup>DEC 31<sup>st</sup></sup>, unless the extension request goes thru.

Read Lisa's report. See the handout. Veterans activities will work with Berlin for greater participation. Our pantry is ok: food items move slowly, incontinence items move well. Think about the next 6 months for next meeting: where do we want to go, do, etc.?

Regarding the Cultural Series: we have big problems getting museums to respond. We want to do more than we have the capability to do. Getting van drivers is a problem. Also, Lisa and Heather's plates are full. We need bigger and better PR. Trips are best from April thru October. Winter activities should be local. We need to build up a bigger pool / core of volunteers.

Next COA meeting is January 23, at 10 am.

The meeting adjourned at 10:13.

Respectfully submitted: Tom Byron

Bolton Council on Aging  
December 2023    FY2024

<u>Category</u>	<u>Total Year Budget</u>	<u>Spent Year-To-Date</u>	<u>Spent %</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>
<b>Town Warrant</b>				
<u>Fixed</u>				
Salary	\$ 56,117.00	\$24,821.37	44.23%	\$ 31,295.63
Wages	\$ 42,026.00	\$18,588.60	44.23%	\$ 23,437.40
Software Support	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,190.00	99.17%	\$ 10.00
Building Lease	\$ 4,551.00	\$ 4,087.00	89.80%	\$ 464.00
Cable/DSL	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 551.40	45.95%	\$ 648.60
Telephone	\$ 600.00	\$ 123.01	20.50%	\$ 476.99
<b>Subtotal-Fixed</b>	<b>\$ 105,694.00</b>	<b>49,361.38</b>	<b>46.70%</b>	<b>\$ 56,332.62</b>
<u>Discretionary</u>				
Purchased Services	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 1,600.00	42.11%	\$ 2,200.00
Supplies	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,333.84	29.64%	\$ 3,166.16
<b>Subtotal-Discretionary</b>	<b>\$ 8,300.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,933.84</b>	<b>35.35%</b>	<b>\$ 5,366.16</b>
<b>Total Warrant Spending</b>	<b>\$ 113,994.00</b>	<b>\$52,295.22</b>	<b>45.88%</b>	<b>\$ 61,698.78</b>
<b>Grant</b>				
Lisa- Extra 3 hours	\$ 6,859.00	\$ 2,753.21	40.14%	\$ 4,105.79
Fitness/Balance	\$ 4,680.00	\$ 1,124.00	24.02%	\$ 3,556.00
Classes-Art/Garden Therapy	\$ 6,450.00	\$ 2,000.00	31.01%	\$ 4,450.00
Holiday Luncheon	\$ 1,200.00	\$ -	0.00%	\$ 1,200.00
Transportation/misc.	\$ 1,065.00	\$ 808.55	75.92%	\$ 256.45
<b>Total Grant Spending</b>	<b>\$ 20,254.00</b>	<b>\$ 6,685.76</b>	<b>33.01%</b>	<b>\$ 13,568.24</b>
State Grant Balance 2023	\$ 12,349.00			
50% 2024 State Grant	\$ 9,065.00	(amount increased from \$8598)		
<b>Total State Grant Available</b>	<b>\$ 21,414.00</b>			
 FY 22 Earmarked Fund	 \$ 19,640.00			
 Fuel Assitance Balance	 \$ 6,657.72			
 GO Bolton Balance	 \$ 5,724.00			

## December COA Meeting Outreach/Program Minutes

### Upcoming Programs-

The Registry of Deeds will be coming to do an assets planning workshop. Stephanie Fattman from the probate court will likely be accompanying them on January 24th at 12:30. (This will be the first in the sessions of the Planning for a Successful Future series.)

Therapy Gardens will be here on January 25th at 11 to do a talk on Israel and Hamas presented by Ron Rubin who is a professor at MIT.

Blue Cross Blue Shield will be doing a presentation on Medicare Advantage plans on January 18th at 12:30.

We will also have our regular programs like art, fitness classes, nurse visits, grief support group, reiki and more.

### Other updates-

Wheat meals are still doing well. The next round of deliveries are up and there are still a few spots that need volunteers. (2 in February, 1 in March and a handful in April.)

Jodi Bridel from Wheat reached out to see if there was something that we could do to make the home delivered groceries a more vibrant program. There is currently only 1 person on the list. In the new year, I am going to try to be better about highlighting programs, like this, SNAP, National Grid savings and more in the newsletter so more people become aware of the ways that could possibly help them.

MART is going well. The pilot group is adding new COA's to test out the program/software.

The Community Connections program through MART is up and running! Last week we kicked off the first week of the Highland Commons run. On Wednesday there were 2 people who had taken advantage of the ride. Scott Rich from MART told me that there were at least 4 individuals who had inquired about using the shuttle this week.

Last meeting I mentioned that I had written a letter for Don to send to Mass Development to request an extension on our GoBolton grand funds. As of now, I have not heard anything back. Acton was granted an extension, but said it took about 4 weeks to hear back. (This is week 4 for us.)

Fuel Assistance in full swing, out of the 17 recipients from last year, I have talked to 14 of them already who have been working with MOC and are going to be applying to the town. Most of these people I have also helped pick a new energy supplier from National Grid to help lower their energy bill too.



12/19/23

## Director's Report

Holiday Luncheon – Sixty people attended the Holiday Luncheon at the Old Mill Restaurant. The function room was very well appointed and had a great view of the water, geese and ducks outside. The food was very good. The majority of feedback I received was positive. There were a couple of minor complaints regarding the food not being hot enough, and the room was a bit cool. With the Board's approval, I can rebook for next year. I'll work with the Old Mill staff to ensure the food will be hot and ask that they increase the room temperature.

Veteran's Agent and Bolton COA's Vets Talk Program – I am happy to announce that we will finally have a monthly veteran's program called Vets Talk. Starting February 6<sup>th</sup>, this program will allow veterans to get together and talk about current events, their service, or whatever is going on in the world. There is typically no agenda or structure, just the opportunity to chat in a way that only those who have served can do and understand. For the sake of continuity, Vet Talks will be scheduled the first Tuesday of every month. In order to have a meaningful program, we need to make sure enough veterans attend. We would like to open this program up to Berlin veterans as well. Veteran's Agent, Brian Stearns will be at the first gathering and he is willing to support this effort by offering guidance and suggesting guest speakers when needed. Brian was the guest at our December "Coffee With" program. This was very well attended, and a few of the participants said they would be interested in helping with the organization and promotion of the Vets Talk program. There are approximately 184 veterans in Bolton, and 114 are retirement age. We will send invitations to all Bolton veterans at the beginning of January via email and mail.

Holiday Card – I was unable to get a group photo at the Holiday Luncheon that was worthy of using for a COA holiday card. I think we should table this idea until next year, and we can focus on getting great photos that really highlight the COA and our engaging programs.

Thank you, and Happy Holidays to you and your families.

Lisa D'Eon  
Bolton COA Director

# Town of Bolton

## HIGHLAND COMMONS MART SHOPPING SHUTTLE

### Monday Rides

#### Pickup Times and Locations

10:00 A.M. Regency at Pondside

10:10 A.M. Bolton COA/Country Manor

**Destination 10:20 A.M. - Highland Commons**

12:00 P.M. - Shuttle leaves Highland Commons for return trip.

### Wednesday Rides

#### Pickup Times and Locations

3:00 P.M. Regency at Pondside

3:10 P.M. Bolton COA/Country Manor

**Destination 3:20 P.M. - Highland Commons**

5:00 P.M. - Shuttle leaves Highland Commons for return trip.



**Ride Service**

**Fare-Free until April 1st**

**Call 1-800-922-5636 option 3**

***Pay by credit/debit card or while boarding the van.***