

**ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE
GREENE COUNTY DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING
June 8, 2021 2:00 – 2:42 Virtual Meeting**

PERSON CONDUCTING MEETING: Chairman Dick Golden

RECORDER: Katy Drake/Consultant

ATTENDANCE: Chair Dick Golden, Lula Anderson, Ed Bloomer, Ken Brooks, Lynn Brunner, Bea Clappin, Judi LoPresti, Florence Ohle, Dottie True, Dawn Wallant and Terry McGee Ward

ABSENT/EXCUSED: Vice Chair Linda Van Etten, Ernie Armstead, Michelle Deyo/Tyler Lynch, Larry Krajewski, Lillian Moore, Beverly Meyers, and Jeffrey Ruso

*With 9 members present, a quorum was available.

The meeting opened with roll call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

TOPIC	DISCUSSION	ACTION/ITEM	PERSONAL RESPONSIBLE	DUE	DONE
Review of Previous minutes	The May 11, 2021 meeting minutes were approved as written.	Judi made a motion to approve, Lula seconded the motion. Minutes approved with all in favor.			X
REPORTS & UPDATES: Aging Services	Terry reviewed a report by Connie Bentley that covered Case Mgmt, Staffing, Outreach, Caregiver Supports, Legal Supports, Meetings & Monitoring.	A new staff member, Rachel Wright, will be a primary contact for NY Connects. Rachel started at the end of May.			
Nutrition Services	Terry shared Tezera Pulice’s report. Tezera is at the Rivertown Center to assist staff due to shortages.	It was reported that Annette, the head cook for corrections, who worked with the office for coverage is now heading back to corrections. The meal count remains high with continued referrals. Coxsackie and Catskill sites will not be reopening in August due to staffing shortages. Jewett, Acra and Athens will			

<p>Director's Report</p>	<p>Terry shared information on Upgrades for staff.</p> <p>The Greene County Youth Fair will be held July 22 -25th.</p> <p>Terry reported a large number of inquiries on when centers are opening again.</p> <p>Terry reported that the contact & support provided to seniors by Greene Human Services Dept along with the Rotary was recognized by the National Agency for Aging.</p>	<p>Due to COVID safety guidelines, only staff will sit at the booth this year at the fair. A great deal of interest and questions regarding services are expected, so a staff member will be the one person at the table.</p> <p>On August 2nd, three centers will open. As cooking sites, Acra, Jewett and Athens will be open. Staff shortages are impacting the opening of all sites. Four rounds of advertising have resulted in no qualified candidates for staff/cooks. Sites will be open for meals only, no programs until further notice. Safety measures will be in place as required. The Governor has reported that when 70% of eligible population has been vaccinated, restrictions will be eliminated.</p> <p>*6/16 Restrictions lifted for NY</p> <p>Greene County was highlighted for how they addressed social isolation with seniors during COVID.</p>			
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Council Member Announcements & Updates:

Lula Anderson noted the success of a recent Hawaiian themed program at the mountain top with 30 people were gathered and happy to be back in person. Lula reported on her work with the town for a new blood draw center and the advocacy for a much-needed Urgent Care.

Dick Golden shared that Coxsackie YMCA is open. Dick led a discussion on returning the Aging Advisory Council to in-person meetings. Dick shared that the Rotary has an electric lift that it took down in Catskill that can be used to raise a person in wheelchair from ground level to first floor. It is an outdoor lift with rails. Assistance may be available for installation, as well.

Judi LoPresti discussed the re-start of senior bus trips. As of right now, only the September 15-17 trip to Lancaster PA is planned. Proctor's theater maybe be possible for January 2022. Day trips are being explored as well but would not include restaurant stops at this time.

The Board wished Linda Van Etten a full and speedy recovery.

Florence Ohle sent in the following information to share:

- CAGC has housing money available to assist with those in arrears, and emergency assistance including housing for those affected by COVID. Anything related to, responding to, preparing for or preventing covid, for folks under 200% of poverty may be considered.
- CAGC is assisting people with the online process for rent assistance, going back as far as March 2020 to assist anyone in arrears.
- From now until October, every Tuesday afternoon Community Action will have a FREE FARMERS MARKET in the parking lot near the Thrift Store. Free produce, eggs, maybe baked goods. Bring your own bag & masks required.
- CAGC is accepting applications for Weatherization Assistance Program- guidelines have changed effective 4/1/21 and CAGC are now allowed to re-weatherize homes that have not had our service in 15 years.
- Florence offered two totes of yarn up for crafters.
- Florence suggested "porcupine soup" as a place to advertise for volunteers.

Dottie reported on the work being done to find a new senior site in Cairo. The Town Board is supportive of a new building/site.

Dawn shared that Common Ground has been working remotely, though courts remain sporadic in scheduling. Trainings may start again soon; however, any in-person training may require proof of vaccination.

Terry McGee Ward reported all contracts are done for the year –and thanked Maureen Murphy for her work on this.

2:42 motion to adjourn accepted. Respectfully submitted, Katy Drake

**Next meeting – July 13, 2021 @ 2:00—Last Virtual Meeting.
Luncheon being planned for August- more information to follow.**