Rochester Council on Aging (RCOA)

Board of Directors Meeting

67 Dexter Lane

Rochester, MA 02770

December 30, 2021

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In Attendance: Pauline Munroe; President, Michael Cambra; Vice President, Sue Norton; Treasurer, Marjorie O’Brien; Secretary, Marge Barrows, Mary Bessey, Woody Hartley, Andrew Revell via Conference Call,

Eric Poulin, COA Director; Karen Walega, Health Director for the Town of Rochester

Call to Order – With confirmation of a quorum, Pauline Munroe called the December 30, 2021 RCOA Board of Directors Meeting to order at 10:02 A.M.

Item #1 – The only item on the agenda was a discussion regarding area senior center closures and the status of the Rochester COA. It was noted that the Dartmouth and Fairhaven senior centers are closing until at least January 18th due to concerns around the omicron Covid variant. The Buttonwood Senior Center in New Bedford is also closing until spring. Karen Walega, Health Director for the Town of Rochester, said that she spoke with Connie Dolan, Public Health Nurse for the Town of Rochester, and the 2 of them shared the opinion that the Rochester Senior Center should close for at least 3 weeks as a precaution. The Board discussed various options to try to keep the center open but on a motion made by Michael Cambra and seconded by Woody Hartley ultimately voted to close the senior center until January 18, 2022. The motion passed 6-2 with Marjorie O’Brien and Marge Barrows voting against the temporary closure. At the next meeting of the Board, which will be prior to Jan. 18th, they will decide if the center can re-open on the 18th or if it will need to stay closed longer. It should be noted that as part of their vote that the Board instructed that the Boston Food Bank program for January will go on as scheduled. The transportation program will also continue but will be limited to bringing seniors to medical appointments, grocery shopping and other vital and necessary trips. Social outings though will not take place at this time. The Outreach Coordinator will also be available to cook and deliver meals to those that request it/those that are in need and/or we may make referrals to Meals on Wheels for those that need it/that eat at the center regularly.

Motion to adjourn at 10:37 A.M. by Sue Norton, Seconded by Woody Hartley. Passed Unanimously.