



Minutes of Town of West Newbury

Council on Aging Minutes

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 9:00 am

The Council on Aging met in person in the SAGE Center/Senior Center on November 14, 2023. Chair, Dianne Faulkner, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Present: Vicky Beaumier, Dianne Faulkner, Gail DiNaro, Marjorie Peterson, Richard Preble, Julie Ruscio, Bob Veator, Barbara Warne

Staff: Christine Marshall, Director and Jen Vincent, Nutrition Coordinator

Absent: Jessa Haynes, Joe Publicover, Heather Conner

Secretary's Report: Dianne Faulkner called for the Secretary's Report. Marjorie Peterson moved to accept the minutes of October 10, 2023. Gail DiNaro seconded the motion. Minutes approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Report and Expenses were reviewed for October 2023. Christine remarked we are on track with the budget. Christine had a conversation with the Friday yoga instructor regarding low participation and restructuring the cost of the class. They came to a mutual agreement to end the Friday yoga class at the end of October. Corinn from the Library reached out to Christine to collaborate with SAGE for their Wednesday yoga class, which began on November 1. The cost structure of this class is similar to that of the 3B class, where most of the payment is made directly to the instructor by the participants. Donations have started to come in for Food Pantry. Marjorie Peterson moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Vicky Beaumier seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Director's Report: Christine reviewed and made note of various line items on the report. We have one more Senior Tax Work Off volunteer, making 14 volunteers this year – up from 11 last year. The greeting card workshop is fun and increasing in participants. A Christmas Carol tickets are on sale now. We have 24 tickets, and sales are slow. Dianne suggested contacting Nichols Village to spread the word about this event. NEET rides have increased. Marjorie Peterson moved to accept the Director's Report. Gail DiNaro seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

New Business:

- a. Welcome New COA Member, Heather Conner!
- b. MCOA Grant Application for My Senior Center Touch Screen - Christine has applied for this grant and we will know on November 30 if we receive it. The Touch Screen will be used for people to register for programs, activities, participation tracking, senior tax work off tracking. It will increase accuracy and save staff time.
- c. New Yoga Class collaboration with G.A.R. Memorial Library - Yoga class will now be Wednesdays instead of Fridays in collaboration with the G.A.R. Memorial library. This class is well attended and intergenerational. Christine purchased yoga blocks, so there is no need to bring those to class.

- d. Town Projects Fair & Forum on Nov. 9 & 15 – SAGE Center Info Table - Town Fair Projects Forum went great on November 9. Julie Ruscio and Bob Veator are the volunteers for November 15. This is a great way for us to talk to residents about what we do here at SAGE!

Old Business:

- a. Update on Food Pantry - Christine sent an email blast through the town web site November 9, 2023 giving some information on the Food Pantry and asking for help, and we have received many financial donations as well as residents offering to have food drives.
- A large food donation came in from a resident, which was done at West Newbury Food Mart on November 11, 2023.
 - Since November 9, cash donations total \$2,321.01
 - There will be a food drive at the Pentucket Thanksgiving football game.
 - One of our food pantry volunteers, Jamie, held a food drive at her son's game, obtaining 200 pounds of food.
 - Our Police liaison, Officer Roy, has organized a food drive, "Stuff A Cruiser", at West Newbury Food Mart on November 25, 2023.

Thanksgiving bags are all set for food donations. Nourishing the North Shore, Our Neighbors Table and Community Service of Newburyport are available resources.

- b. Update on Pickleball program – the Park and Recreation Commission has approved SAGE Center Pickleball to continue on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9-11 am at Action Cove basketball courts through December.
- c. Update on Revolving Fund – the Revolving Fund was approved at Town Meeting and we are now waiting the 90 days for the Attorney General's office to approve the by-law change.

Other Discussion:

Dianne Faulker visited the Timberlane Performing Arts Center in Plaistow, New Hampshire. This was a great event in commemoration of veterans. Diane suggested this idea for West Newbury.

Gail made a motion to change the meeting time to 10:00 am on the second Tuesday of each month. Dianne seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Dianne Faulkner moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. Vicky seconded the motion. Motion approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Ruscio, Secretary

Meeting Documents:

1. Draft minutes of COA meeting October 10, 2023
2. COA Financial Report, October 2023
3. Food Pantry Expenses
4. Director's Report, October 2023
5. Copy of MCOA Grant Application

6. Greet the Day Yoga flyer
7. Town Projects Fair and Forum flyer
8. Copy of West Newbury Food Pantry email blast
9. FY24 Food Drives and Partnerships update
10. Pickleball flyer