



Minutes of Town of West Newbury

Council on Aging Minutes

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 at 9:00 am

The Council on Aging met in person in the First Floor Hearing Room on December 13, 2022 at 9 am.

Chair: Jacqueline Johnston called the meeting to order at 9:02 am.

Present: Jacqueline Johnston, Richard Preble, Gail DiNaro, Dianne Faulkner, Vicky Beaumier, Barbara Warne, Marjorie Peterson

Absent: Laurie Spielvogel, Joseph Publicover, Dorothy Cavanaugh, Jessa Haynes

Staff: Christine Marshall

Secretary's Report: Marge Peterson moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2022. Gail DiNaro seconded the motion. Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Report and Expenses were reviewed. Christine noted the budget is on track. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Barbara Warne, seconded by Dianne Faulkner. Approved unanimously

Director's Report: The Director's Report was reviewed. It was noted that most programs are doing well.

- The new food pantry in the lobby is moving slowly. Because of so many Monday holidays, the weekly food pantry is changing its pickup day from Monday to Tuesdays. This will allow time for Jen to shop for perishable items on Mondays and provide more parking.
- The parking lot is often full when 3B classes are held, and it was discussed that we encourage parking in the rear lot. Christine will share this information with both exercise instructors.
- Christine reported her attendance at a meeting sponsored by the MVPC. The Merrimack Valley Transportation Authority is rebranding as MeVa. The Ring and Ride program is wheelchair accessible, and all MeVa vans have a wheelchair lift. Christine is working with MeVa to schedule an informational session at a Lunch and Learn program to promote the public transportation options in West Newbury. The disposition of the van is currently on hold.
- There was discussion regarding the complexity of Medicare insurance coverage options. It was agreed that an explanation of plans be presented prior to open enrollment next year. SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Everyone) is a volunteer program where counselors are certified to offer free, unbiased, confidential counseling on all aspects of health insurance to anyone on or eligible for Medicare. SHINE information is included in every newsletter under Health & Resources. This year during open enrollment twelve residents utilized the service. Christine will work with AgeSpan to schedule a Lunch and Learn prior to open enrollment in 2023.
- Christine reported that she is waiting to see if Valerie Horgan will provide foot care on Saturday mornings. Christine is also looking at purchasing a chair designed for this purpose.

- Christine reported that she is waiting for a response from the Town Manager regarding evening office hours and an additional 3B class on Wednesday evenings. In the proposal, Christine would work from home on Fridays.
- Dinners are on hold during the Winter because most seniors do not want to drive in the dark.
- The Holiday Luncheon and Musical Performance with Page School 6th Grade Chorus has received a huge response. We currently have 25 registrations. The Page School principal indicated she would like to work more with the SAGE Center. Christine communicated with the principal that our attendance for programs is still low, and she would prefer waiting until the spring to offer another intergenerational program. We currently have only one senior participating in the Games & Puzzles with Pentucket student volunteers, and hope to increase participation in that program.
- Christine distributed a draft of an article for the newsletter regarding the dissolution of the Friends of the COA and how donations may be made to the COA Gift Account. This is currently being reviewed by the Town Manager. Dianne said she had asked Ann O'Sullivan for a list of the former members of the Friends and it has not yet been received.

Jacquie moved, seconded by Vicky that the Directors Report be accepted. Voted unanimously

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Adjournment:

Richard moved, seconded by Gail to adjourn. Voted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Peterson
Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Draft minutes of COA Meeting on November 15, 2022
COA Financial Report as of November 30, 2022
COA Director's Report for November 2022