



Minutes of Town of West Newbury

Council on Aging Minutes

Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 9:00 am

The Council on Aging met in person in the First Floor Hearing Room on January 10, 2023.

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: Gail DiNaro moved to approve the minutes of December 13, 2022. Dianne Faulkner seconded the motion. Approved unanimously

Treasurer's Report: The Financial Report and Expenses were reviewed. Christine noted the budget is on track. Christine hopes to use some formula grant funds for the Spring Fling and a Volunteer Appreciation event. A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Dick Preble, seconded by Gail DiNaro. Approved unanimously

Director's Report: The Director's Report was reviewed.

- The Christmas Lunch and 6th grade chorus event was a huge success with 44 attendees (including chorus). It was suggested to hold another event similar to this with a spring concert by the Page School.
- There is increased usage of the new food pantry in the lobby and the food pantry in the Senior Housing continues to be an appreciated and much used addition. Over 1,000 pounds of food went out in December, partly attributed to the Holiday Baskets.
- Eighteen folks applied for the Senior Tax Work Off Program and fifteen are currently working.
- Valerie Horgan is providing foot care on Saturday mornings. Eight used her services this past Saturday and she has scheduled thirteen for this coming Saturday.
- Twenty seven sand pails were delivered.
- Attendance at the 3B class is excellent.

Dick Preble moved to accept the Director's Report. Dianne Faulkner seconded motion. Voted unanimously.

New Business:

The COA Town Report prepared by Christine was reviewed. It was agreed this was an excellent report. Marge Peterson moved to accept. Vicki Beaumier seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

Reviewed the budget for Fiscal Year 2024. Christine proposed that the budget be level-funded. The Formula Grant and COA Gift Account can be used for some unforeseen expenditures. Christine will recommend to the Town Manager that \$7,000 of the formula grant be used to support Jen Vincent's position as Nutrition Coordinator, making the Salary and Wages budget about the same as FY23. The Town Manager will address the COLA increases for salaries. Christine will prepare the budget narrative which is due to the Town Manager on January 11. Marge Peterson moved to accept the proposed budget. Jacquie Johnston seconded the motion. Voted unanimously.

Chris Howe, yoga instructor, will be away for 6-8 weeks, and there will be no in person yoga sponsored by the COA during that time. Chris may continue zoom classes. Christine is recommending that seniors look into the yoga sessions being held at the Old Town Hall sponsored by the Friends of the Library.

Christine discussed another conversation with the Town Manager regarding evening hours for the SAGE Center. Angus Jennings explained to Christine the need for consistent hours throughout Town Offices. Angus supports occasional evening programs, as we have been doing. Christine recommended to the COA Board that we continue with what we have been doing over the past year. We will, therefore, not be able to offer the 3B class in the evening, and Christine will work with Brian to find another time slot within regular hours to offer a 3rd 3B class.

The first floor hearing room will be getting an update with new furniture and the large conference table will be moved to the 2nd floor hearing room. The size of the table will make it impractical for us to hold activities, such as yoga, in that room. There was discussion of using Old Town Hall for some programs.

Christine reported that she is interested in collaborating with the Library at the suggestion of Corinn Flaherty, Library Director, that a Zoom watch party be held in the SAGE Center for a program they are offering. The Office of Consumer Affairs will do 3 virtual talks that may be of interest to seniors:

- Identity Theft and Online Safety
- Skimming
- Contracting

At the Lunch and Learn scheduled for Thursday, January 12, Amy Jenkins, Director of Paratransit Operations at MeVa (formerly Merrimack Valley Transit Authority) will discuss their transportation options, including wheelchair accessibility, to seniors of West Newbury.

Gail DiNaro suggested we think about programs that would appeal to men.

The next COA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 14. There is also a Valentine's Luncheon event on February 14.

Jacquie Johnston moved that this meeting adjourn. Gail DiNaro seconded. Voted unanimously to adjourn at 10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Marjorie Peterson, Secretary

Meeting Documents:

Draft minutes of COA Meeting on December 13, 2022

COA Financial Report as of December 31, 2022

COA Director's Report for December 2022

Draft COA Annual Report for FY22

FY24 Proposed COA Budget

FY24 Budget Packet from Town Manager

Library Yoga Flyer

Lunch and Learn with MeVa Transportation Flyer

Memo requesting SAGE Center expand hours

Library Program email