



Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom
Date: October 11, 2023

Present: Julie Brown, Karen Burke, Christina Della Croce, Maureen Hickey, Susan Jepson, Jim Morin, Sherri Oken, Joanne Scouler (starting 6:56); Town Council Liaison, Bob Vincent

Call to order 6:35 p.m.
No members of the public were present

<u>Director</u> Karen Burke
<u>Board Members</u> Julie Brown Christine Della Croce Maureen Hickey Susan Jepson Jim Morin Sherri Oken Joanne Scouler
<u>Town Council Liaison</u> Bob Vincent

- I. Approval of Sept. 13, 2023 minutes
 - A. Revisions
 1. Item 4 - Maureen made the motion
 2. Director's report A2 - Just note there is a strong demand for rides - delete specifics
 - B. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Jim Morin, seconded by Julie Brown and all voted in favor.

- II. Financial Report
 - A. For October
 1. Bad news - The formula grant will go down based on reduced census numbers.
 2. Good news - state increased payment to \$14 from \$12pp which will offset the loss and actually provide more money.
 3. Money will be appropriated to us at the end of October.
 - B. \$3600 gift from Wilcox Fund
 1. This money will cover the cost for the My Senior Center program next year.
 2. Staff is looking into purchasing a mobile scanner and considering if there is value added.
 3. Library chairs are in and being delivered tomorrow.
 - C. Maureen Hickey made a motion to accept the financial report, Sherri Oken seconded, and all voted in favor.

- III. Director's/Program Report
 - A. Participation
 1. The small gym is getting more use.
 2. A lot more people are participating and using the ride service.
 3. Staff is applying for grant for a second bus to seat 12 passengers.
 - B. Discussion: Could the Town use our van after hours to help people get to other Town meetings and events? Is there a need?
 - C. Additional Services



1. Staff is applying for a Service Incentive Grant (SIG) to offer additional services (ex. to address loneliness and isolation) through MCOA.
2. The Caregiver Support Group, in cooperation with Mystic Valley Elder Services, begins in November.

TO DO Staff to find out what press has been sent and possibly send a write up to The Item.

D. Senior Resource Fair on Oct. 25th

Details of the services to be provided that day are in the newsletter.

E. Past Events

1. LGBTQ Feedback Session

- a. There were good suggestions and ideas.
- b. First program will be showing a movie in November.

2. Art Fair

The work exhibited was amazing. This is definitely an event to repeat, possibly in the Spring.

F. Onboarding

1. Susan Jepson, with Sherri Oken's input, developed a list of what possibly could be included in the onboarding of new COA members

TO DO send your thoughts to Susan about the orientation coverage

TO DO send contact information to Christina Della Croce who will put together a contact sheet to be used by COA members in the next week

2. Suggestion: Invite Tom Mullen to provide a presentation on the Open Meeting Law

TO DO Sherri to send link to the video of Tom Mullen's presentation to the HRC for all to view before our next meeting. Then we may ask him to come to our meeting to answer questions and provide additional clarification.

IV. Discussion of meeting time start time

Maureen Hickey motioned to keep the time the same, Joanne Scouler seconded and all voted in favor.

V. Town Council Report- Bob Vincent

A. Affordable Housing

1. We are the only Board that offered a nomination to the affordable housing trust fund.
2. They will attempt to get more representatives of other Town Councils and Committees.
3. 5 people applied for the 3 at-large positions.

B. Bike plan/master plan

1. The latest version of the report has not been promulgated.
2. The Council expressed some concerns and asked the MAPC for more clarification.
3. We hope to see the COA input incorporated into the plan.

C. Town Meeting

1. Warrant items for the Nov 8th meeting are due at end of the week
2. No particulars have been provided by the Boardd of Assessors to the Council.
3. A discussion of the location and type of bathrooms at Veterans Park is on the Oct. 16th Town Council Meeting agenda
Bathrooms will not affect available amount of parking, and will be unisex and handicap accessible in both locations.

VI. Matters no anticipated

A. Erin Kokinda will be at the Senior Fair to answer Master Plan questions.

B. Save the Date

Monday, Dec. 18th Holiday Party 11 - 2:30, featuring a DJ and catered

Sherri Oken made a motion to adjourn at 7:27, Maureen Hickey seconded and all voted in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Sherri Oken