



Town of Wakefield

Director

Karen Burke

Board Members

Flo Calore
Christine Dello Croce
Elizabeth Ellis
Maureen Hickey
Susan Jepson
Suzanne Powers
Joanne Scouler

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Via Zoom

Date: September 14, 2022

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm by Susan Jepson

Members in attendance: Karen Burke Flo Calore, Elizabeth Ellis, Maureen Hickey, Susan Jepson, Joanne Scouler. Mike McLane, Town Councilor and Lorna Davidson-Connelly, Disability Commission also in attendance.

Minutes reviewed of July 13, 2022, COA meeting.

Motion to accept minutes made by Maureen Hickey, seconded by Susan Jepson, all in favor to approve minutes as presented.

Financial Report

- Financials reviewed for July and August.
 - Minor typo correction noted to be completed.
 - July is start of the Fiscal Year
- Activity Report
 - Very busy two months with many phone calls and attendees
 - July-Total 845 units—includes Gym uses-(51) and transportation-(94 units) and all other center activities: card games, crafts, woodworking, movie.
 - August-total 1031 units—includes Gym uses-(59) and transportation-(108 units) and all other center activities: card games, crafts, woodworking, movie.
 - Meetings with Beth Greenberg, Center SW, SHINE counselor, computer room use is not included in the above statistics Director will develop a process to begin tracking this info.
 - Wait list issue continues to be addressed, with Wakefield residents given priority to attend an activity if space allows. Director and staff are outreaching to attendees who have signed up for activities/classes and do not attend regularly in an effort to allow more attendees. There is not a process to sign up for an individual class on a given day—only to sign up

- for all or a particular class (eg—a person who signs up once for Fri am Zumba is considered an attendee even if they only come once per month)
- New classes are being added—an additional Aging Backward session. New classes include Functional Fitness and Strong and Steady (given by a PT).
 - Discussion point added here regarding naming of Aging Backwards class
- An offer has been extended to an individual for the open Activities Coordinator position –this is a 18 hour per week position.

Maureen Hickey moved to accept Financial Report Liz Ellis seconded, all in favor.

Director's Report

- Center Events
 - Recent field trips have been successful and popular, all seats taken.
 - Yoga class has been added, mindful crafting is full.
 - Blood Pressure clinics will be held at Center weekly.
 - Senator Lewis will visit in Oct, invitation to Stoneham Senior Center to attend this visit—Senator will provide a review of the four ballot questions
 - October 12 there will be an Eat Loal luncheon (Sabatino's) with Town Councilors in attendance.
 - Susan J posed question to consider evening or after-hours activities. This may be considered in future planning.
 - A new Town Social Worker in Health Department
 - Director has applied in conjunction with Melrose COA and Health Dept for a grant to train a potential Alzheimer educator
 - Director will outreach for Youth Commission attendance and participation in some Senior Center activities and COA meetign

Maureen Hickey moved to accept Director's Report, Joanne Scouler seconded, all in favor.

Strategic Planning

- Any session with COA to meet for this would have to be an open meeting and recorded. At present time the Town does not have equipment/staff to support, and due to Open Meeting Law compliance, it would not be possible to hold a separate session. Any such planning would have to be done during a regularly scheduled COA meeting.
- More discussion to follow
- Director will distribute Proposed agenda to COA one week in advance of meeting. Any proposed additions to this agenda would be submitted to the Director at least 72 hours prior to the meeting for distribution and public.

- Consider adding a section at the beginning of the meeting “Public Comment”

Other

- Lorna Davidson-Connelly gave a brief update of a Disability Commission initiative –meeting with local builders regarding accessibility and affordability in local housing initiatives.

Motion to adjourn made by Maureen Hickey, seconded by Flo Calore, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:33pm

*Respectfully submitted
Flo Calore*