

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING
February 17, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Newburyport Council on Aging met on this date at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center, 332 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

President Terry Rooney called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present:

Terry Rooney	Rosemary Decie	Richard Eaton	John Green
Annie Maurer	Yvonne McQuilkin	Cynthia Muir	Elaine Paglia

Members Absent:

Erin Sheehey (excused)

Staff Present:

Paula Burke
Mary Kelly

Guest:

Greg Jingress

The meeting was called to order at 9:00. Greg Jingress audited the meeting over Zoom and, per his request, a copy of the minutes will be forwarded to him. He is interested in learning whether there are opportunities for him to volunteer in some capacity.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Having reviewed the Secretary's minutes for the previous meeting, it was moved, seconded, and

Voted: To accept the Secretary's report of the Board of Directors meeting of February 17, 2022.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: Mary Kelly

- The center is back in business since February 1st and the numbers are slowly rising.

- A filtered water system has been installed so there will be less plastic waste.
- 180 people have signed up for the tax program.
- A new program on Wednesday called “What’s Your Tune” will present a piece of music and ask participants what it makes them think of.
- Lists of the exercise programs at the local COAs are being given out.
- Pickleball schedule is out.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Paula Burke

- It is anticipated that over 225 people will be served by the tax program.
- The center is returning to indoor and outdoor dining and should be fully operational by May. The Board of Health lifted the mask mandate on all non-school buildings as of February 17, 2022. However, indoor/in-person congregate lunches will not start until May due to the food vendor (Agespan) experiencing delays affecting their ability to deliver at previous capacity. FONCOA liaison Elaine suggested that the Friends would be able to cover the cost of daily lunches until May if asked. Paula noted that during the transition period people coming in for Grab & Go meals will be able to stay and eat if they choose to.
- The per diem bus driver position is posted.
- Cindy Mead is now on the payroll.
- A \$51,132 grant has come in and can be spent.
- There is a new owner of the company that prints the newsletter who has some fresh ideas.
- Still working on building a multi-purpose outside space that can be used for a wide-range of activities and meetings. Paula has applied for Community Preservation Act funds that will be matched by state funds to move the project along. Estimated cost is \$200,000. Letters from supporters, including the mayor, are coming in.
- MVRTA bus service is going to be free for two years. There will be a celebration in Lawrence on Feb. 28th, Yvonne and Annie will attend.
- Although the mask mandate is scheduled to end on Feb. 28, the return of indoor nutrition programs is affected by the rules food providers have. Looking for options for providing food during the transition.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Elaine Paglia

- Elaine will meet with Christina Jackson in the mayor's office to go over the nominations process.
- Positions should be posted in a couple of weeks.

BOARD BUSINESS: Terry Rooney

- The language changes in the bylaws have come back from Councilor Khan and they reflect what we suggested. It is now in committee and the process is slowed by the need to have consistency across the town boards.
- There will be three Board subcommittees: Data Analysis, Elaine and Rosemary; Food Insecurity, John and Cynthia; and Transportation, Yvonne and Annie. Suggested goals were provided and we will need to decide on the goals and how we will measure success. Board members are asked to look over the document provided and determine any edits or suggestions.
- Terry shared an article on expanding medicare.
- Space use policies were discussed. Paula will share the document delineating them. COA time is clearly defined as 8 to 4. Although no nonCOA activities can happen during those hours, some blocks of time can be offered to primary partners during them. The issue of providing programming for older people who are still working was also discussed.

Having concluded the Board's business, it was moved, seconded, and **VOTED** to adjourn at 10:30 a.m.

The next meeting of the Newburyport Council on Aging will be on March 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Annie Maurer, Secretary