

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING
May 19, 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

The meeting was called to order at 9:10am.

Members Present:

Rosemary Decie	Richard Eaton	John Green	Annie Maurer	Yvonne McQuilken
Cynthia Muir	Elain Paglia	Erin Sheehy		

Members Absent:

Terry Rooney

Staff Present:

Paula Burke: Director, Newburyport Council on Aging

Mary Kelly: Activities Coordinator

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Voted: To accept the Secretary's meeting for the Board of Directors meeting of April 21, 2022.

NEW BOARD MEMBER INTRODUCED

Marcie Neville, who will join the Board when it reconvenes in September, was introduced.

ACTIVITIES REPORT - Mary Kelly

- A color therapy program to work with grief and loss has started.
- Port Media did promos on COA programs to promote them that highlighted visits from emotional support dogs and coffee socials with Newburyport police. Videos are available on YouTube at the Greater Newburyport Media Hub. Also available at NCMhub.org.
- Work is ongoing on planning the Antique car show which will feature 25 antique cars. Mary is working out logistics and Richie volunteered to assist.

DIRECTORS REPORT - Paula Burke

- Bob the bus driver is retiring. There will be a party for him at 2:00 the day he retires.
- Because of the availability of outside space, daily lunches have been restarted.
- 55 people came for the Village program and 35 lunches were served. Currently 10-11 people are coming in to eat. Donna is commended for managing the transition.
- Monthly trips are scheduled, open first to Newburyport residents and opened to others later if space is available. Trips include going to see David Ortiz, a trip to tour the statehouse, and possibly a trip to Fuller Garden.
- NEET provides transportation outside COA hours. COA helps schedule rides with NEET,

- Dates to remember:
6/2 Budget meeting with City Council at 6:00. Board members are encouraged to attend.
6/16 Antique car show
8/4 Yankee Homecoming trade show for groups and agencies in town. "Know Your City" will focus on how to age in place in Greater Newburyport.
- Summer interns are in place.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Committees are asked to elect a chair to coordinate reports to Terry as they work on projects over the summer.
- Transportation Committee: Erin will chair. Need to upgrade bus stops and to increase stops, possible to Plum Island, the train station, and Anna Jaques. Possible find funding to provide dedicated transportation on weekends.
- Food Security/Nutrition: There are grants available. People are being referred to ONT for applying for SNAP benefits,
- Data Analysis: They are currently analyzing traffic coming to take part in activities. Might be a good idea to move some activities to match up with lunch to encourage people to attend. Objective is to draw more people in to programs and activities.

BOARD BUSINESS

- Everyone is encouraged to use the bus.
- Can we explore ways to supply aids to help seniors faced with limitations.
- Thanks to Erin for great names for Coffee with Cops, but police disagreed with some names because of possible negative connotations.
- Still need to address finding resources to help people navigate the health care system
- What work is being one in the COA to work on energy conservation?

Having concluded the Board's business, it was moved, seconded, and
Voted: to adjourn at 10:20

The next meeting of the Newburyport Council on Aging will be on September 15 at 9:00am

Annie Maurer, Secretary