

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING  
SEPTEMBER 15, 2022

The Board of Directors of the Newburyport Council on Aging met on this date at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Acting Chair Elaine Paglia called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rosemary Decie	Richie Eaton	Annie Maurer	Yvonne McQuilkin
Cynthia Muir	Marcie Neville	Elaine Paglia	Erin Sheehy

MEMBERS ABSENT:

John Green

STAFF PRESENT:

Paula Burke: Director, Newburyport Council on Aging  
Mary Kelly: Activities Coordinator

GUESTS: Paul Bushey      Jeff Scionti

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Having reviewed the Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting, it was moved, seconded, and CARRIED WITHOUT OBJECTION: To accept the amended Secretary's report of the Board of Directors Meeting of May 19, 2022.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: Mary Kelly, Activities Coordinator

- Early voting and special events create a lot of traffic that can interfere with members' ability to access programs.
- Dr. Matthew Riordan is partnering with Amy Baxter who will be the diabetic shoe fitter.
- Classes are being shifted as the fall and winter programming is planned. Changes are noted in the activities schedules.
- There was an excellent turn out for the Yankee Homecoming event.
- Healthy snacks are being collected to hand out to kids for Halloween.
- Board members are encouraged to come to the Coffee with Cops social on the 4th Monday of the month and to attend the upcoming Newburyport Art Association reception.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Paula Burke, Director

- Paula discussed with the Mayor the number of requests for use of the SCC by City Departments and how some parameters may need to be set so as to limit the disruption to COA programming.
- Between 1 and 4 PM Monday through Thursday the Dining Room is set aside for partner organizations that also serve our population but still meets the needs of special events like early voting.

- The midwinter pause in programming (usually from Christmas to New Year's) may be extended to two weeks to decrease the spread of holiday germs.
- December 1st is tentatively scheduled to host an evening event. The Friends support the proposal and a collaborative task force including Mary, a couple of the Directors from the Friends' Board, and a couple of members from the COA Board, is being assembled.
- The COA is, once again, scheduling trips through Best of Times but there are limited spots and many who want to book are unable to.
- As the Administrator of the Tax Work-Off Programs, I am working hard to find placements for the increased number of applicants.
- Discount tickets for the North Shore Music Theater's production of "A Christmas Carol" on December 14<sup>th</sup> will be available for purchase through the COA. Transportation options are being discussed.
- John Henry Charron started as the new COA Bus Driver/SCC Steward this summer.
- The job for Outreach Specialist was approved by the City Council and is posted.
- Links to the electronic version of the newsletter are on the website and improvements have been made by the new printer.

#### Friends: Elaine Paglia

- A new brochure for the raffle has been designed and will be sent out to every household in Newburyport and user of the Senior Center from surrounding towns. The hope is to reach over 7,800 households.
- The plan is to use the same style of mailing during the membership drive.

#### Board Reports:

- Food Security: A list of resources is available and the plan is to put them in a pamphlet to distribute to people and link to the site.
- Transportation: Still waiting to hear from the MVRTA what initiatives are being enacted. Plan to set up a guide similar to the food guide to help people navigate the public transit system in the Merrimack Valley.
- Data Analysis: Still gathering and grouping data. The plan is to use data to identify more successful programming and perhaps to identify programming needs.

#### Board Business:

- The question was raised about whether it would be possible to partner with the Chamber to provide information about programming to new residents in town.
- Board members should have copies of the Open Meetings Laws which Elaine will send out electronically. Signature sheets completed by Board members agreeing to the law should be on file at the Clerk's office. However, as many Board members cannot remember signing off on the law, Elaine will collect newly signed sheets from Board members to make sure they are all on file.
- Elaine is looking to obtain a copy of currently approved by-laws which Board members should have for review.
- Notices will be sent out that the next meeting on October 20th will be a special meeting to vote on Board officers and new members.

It was moved, seconded and

CARRIED WITHOUT OBJECTION:To adjourn the meeting at 10:50

The next meeting of the Newburyport Council on Aging will be on October 20, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Annie Maurer, Secretary