

KNEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING
ANNUAL MEETING
MAY 20, 2021

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.

Board Chair Chris Czernik called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chris Czernik	Charles Carroll	Richard Eaton	John Green
Annie Maurer	Yvonne McQuilken	Cynthia Muir	Miller Graf
Elaine Paglia			

MEMBERS ABSENT

Rosemary Decie - unexcused

STAFF PRESENT

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

GUESTS

Theresa Rooney
Erin Sheehy

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

CARRIED WITHOUT OBJECTION: To accept the Secretary's minutes of the Board of Directors' meeting of May 20, 2021.

ACTIVITY REPORT - Mary Kelly

- The slow transition of activities and classes back into the building will begin soon. Many activities will be taking place under the tent.
- A sensory garden is going to be created in and around the boat planter for seniors and school children and will be a collaboration between the Center

and the school. The Friends will be approached to see if they can help finance. It was suggested to go to Black Earth for soil. It's being designed to provide a therapeutic space.

- The Board and Director expressed appreciation for all the hard work Mary has done to provide programming and hold groups together during the pandemic.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Paula Burke

- The Friends have volunteered to provide support for the garden and the bench provided will be dedicated to Fran Munroe in honor of her many years service to the COA.
- User friendly laptops are going to be provided to help people contact family and take part in virtual programming. They come with all equipment and people will be coached in how to use them if they wish.
- The budget is coming up. Post-pandemic programming is focusing on mental health support.
- There will be a soft opening in June with classes transitioning to inside with a projected date of July 12 for opening.
- Jody Desmond has retired from bus driving. Position is posted as a per diem, hybrid position - person will be posted at Center and will fill in as needed.
- We are a regional distribution site for senior meals with 100 going out a day. Due to the vaccination clinic, Grab and Go Meals couldn't be provided.
- The Center is looking to build a couple of pickle ball courts.

The Board welcomed prospective Board members Teri Rooney and Erin Sheehy.

Board Business: Chris Czernik

- The current Board officers were re-elected for another year.
- Discussion of past year as a year of transitions as COA director and Board Chair were both changed. Work has been done to more clearly define the Board's role and Board members have become more involved, for example taking a more prominent role in identifying new Board members, revising Board policies, and working on projects for the Board.
- Providing evening programming for older people who are still working was suggested.

- The Daily News will run an article on the Board, Richard Lodge collaborated with Chris for the paper.
- The Board will support and work with the Friends as they celebrate their twenty-fifth year.

Having discussed and reviewed the final copy of the revised Board Policies, it was moved seconded and

VOTED: To accept the final revision of Board Policies.

It was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To refer to chair and vice chair in documents and discussions.

- Council ordinances and amendments are going to be reviewed, organized, and revised over the summer by Chris and Afroz Khan. It will go before the Board by September.
- John Green: Generator - Tony Fenari, who is in charge of public works, has put it at the top of the list to get done. Mayor says the \$20,000 needed for installation should be available in July.
- Cynthia Muir: Daily News - articles are slow to get into paper due to a personnel shortage.
- Yvonne McQuilken: Bus stops - waiting to hear about the AARP grant. Yvonne has been in touch with a designer who would like shelters to reflect places in town. It is also suggested we try to get a light at the end of the road to the Senior Center.

BOARD NOMINEES

After discussion, it was moved, seconded and

VOTED: To recommend Erin Sheehy and Theresa Rooney to the Mayor to be interviewed for open Board positions.

It was moved, seconded and

CARRIED WITHOUT OBJECTION to adjourn the meeting at 10:30.

The next meeting of the Newburyport Council on Aging will be held on September 16, 2021, at 9:00am at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center.

Annie Maurer, Secretary

