

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING
November 18,, 2021

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

The meeting was called to order by Paua Burke, Director, Newburyport Council on Aging, in the absence of the Board vice chair, Charles Carroll, at 9:10am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Rosemary Decie	Richard Eaton	John Green	Annie Maurer	Yvonne McQuilkin
Cynthia Muir	Elaine Paglia	Erin Sheehy	Theresa Rooney	

MEMBERS ABSENT

Charles Carroll - excused

STAFF PRESENT

Paula Burke: Director, Newburyport Council on Aging

Mary Kelly: Activities Coordinator, Newburyport Council on Aging

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 report of the Board of Directors Meeting of October 21, 2021.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

It was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: To grant an indefinite leave of absence to Charles Carroll

BOARD ELECTIONS

It was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: To elect Theresa Rooney as Board chair and Elaine Pagia as vice chair.

The new Board chair took over the running of the meeting.

ACTIVITIES REPORT - MARY KELLY

- Rosemary is now able to send the newsletter to all of the email list at once, which also enables sending notifications about cancellations etc. easily when necessary.
- A doodling art class has been added on Fridays; there is a new tai chi teacher; support dogs are back; and a Parkinson's fitness class is planned, hopefully starting in the new year.
- The Lion's club is storing food for Thanksgiving meals, expected to serve 400 meals.
- The Newburyport Art Association has an art exhibit up, the schools will display in March. Suggestions to ask photographers in town to mount an exhibit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - PAULA BURKE

- Paula expressed thanks to Mary for all she has done during the transition and to all the others who helped out.
- The Village sponsored 50 traveling chef meals and also sponsors Community Programs as well.
- The COA is working to get all names on the database. Software makes group lists so each class can be contacted independently.
- Much of the programming has been in the paper thanks to Cynthia.
- Essential Services:
 1. Meals on Wheels needs drivers - perhaps information can get into paper through Cynthia.
 2. The Board Room is now available in the morning on Thursdays when there is no Board meeting.
 3. Central Congregational gave a generous donation for transportation and prescription refills. Now COA can offer free transportation to regular users in December.
 4. SHINE appointments are filled. Preparations are being made for the AARP tax program.
- Program Updates:
 1. The new mayor, Sean Reardon, will write a message in the next newsletter.
 2. Book TED starting, which will involve watching a TED talk and then discussing it.
- Staffing:
 1. The COA is looking for an outreach coordinator.
 2. Erin and others are working on marketing.
 3. Question to Board members, what roles might you want to assume?
 4. Holiday Pops tickets are available.

PROJECTED GROWTH OF SENIOR POPULATION AND NEEDS, THERESA ROONEY

- The data is from the mayor's project and data from other cities can be accessed.
- There are concerns about gentrifying and the influx of money and how it will affect seniors.
- The question was raised about the COA supporting a city ordinance to limit Air BNBs in Newburyport. It was agreed it could.
- By 2025 one third of Newburyport's population is expected to be over 65.
- Property taxes are expected to rise due in part to the rising cost of housing in the city.
- The ultimate vision for the data is to contribute to strategic planning and programming in the future.
- At this time, 70% of people who qualify for food support don't access it. How do we diplomatically reach out to people who may need it? Could we do a survey of people who use the COA to discover how many are food insecure and how many use the available services.

NEW BUSINESS

- HR is rewriting and updating Mary's job description and title. This is a good time to do this because of the development of the outreach coordinator's job description and the jobs need to be in synch.
- Afroz has followed up last month's discussion about fees. She will follow up about approval for policy changes.

It was moved, seconded and

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

The next meeting of the Newburyport Council on Aging will be on December 16, 2021 at 9:00 am.

Annie Maurer
Secretary