

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING
SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 20, 2022

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

The meeting was called to order by acting chair Elaine Paglia at 9:00 am.

Members Present:

Richard Eaton	John Green	Annie Maurer	Yvonne McQuilkin
Cynthia Muir	Marcie Neville	Elain Paglia	Erin Sheehy

Members Absent:

Rosemary Decie (excused)

Staff Present:

Paula Burke: Director, Newburyport Council on Aging

Mary Kelly: Activities Coordinator

SECRETARY'S REPORT

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

Voted: To accept the Secretary's notes for the Board of Directors meeting on September 15, 2022.

It was moved, seconded, and

Voted: To close the slates for Board officers and candidates for open board seats.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Paula Burke

- The transportation grant has come through totalling \$45,000 which will be used to add a hybrid vehicle to the fleet by early 2023.
- The generator looks like it is close to coming on line and will allow the center to be used as a warming and cooling station during power outages. DPS staff and center staff will be present when the center is open for such use.
- The program by National Grid explaining their rate hikes was well attended and is available on Media Hub. Materials are available to help seniors navigate electric company assistance for lower and moderate income people as these hikes will increase need of assistance among seniors.
- Ann Freeman will start as Outreach Specialist on October 31. She will attend the next meeting to talk about her plans.

FRIENDS OF THE NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING UPDATE: Elaine Paglia

- Brochures for the raffle have been sent out to everyone in town, so far \$6000 has been raised.
- The next project is the membership drive.
- Elaine has resigned from the Friends and Erin will temporarily fill in to represent the Board.
- FNCOA has a sizeable amount of money on hand and decisions will be made as to where the best places to use it are.
- Community Action is transporting and giving gift cards to Walmart to those who need them.

ACTIVITIES REPORT: Mary Kelly

- Halloween activities include passing out healthy school snacks and the costume parade of students from Bresnahan School on Monday, October 31st at 1:15. Board members are encouraged to come and help pass out snacks at noon.
- The early voting schedule is out.
- Lions Club Thanksgiving dinners will continue to be curbside rather than in house this year.
- MVRTA ribbon cutting is this week. Niorka Mendez, director of communications, will be invited to the next meeting to update us and hear concerns. Please bring questions to the next meeting. It was suggested that we get paper schedules and maps of the bus stops to share with seniors.

BOARD BUSINESS: Elain Paglia

- Alice Sheridan and Philip Schwartz, candidates for the open Board seats, were introduced to the Board.
- The Food Security subcommittee reported they are working on developing a card to hand out listing all the resources in the area for food acquisition. Erin will help develop. The Friends may fund.
- The Data Analysis subcommittee now has a year's worth of data. They request that Paula and Mary produce a document monthly for the Board showing attendance for programs, classes, etc. This will also help identify those who need help paying for classes and will help the COA to address funding with the city.
- There was some discussion of the various scams targeting seniors and it was suggested that the police address this at their monthly meet-up and that there be a scam alert added to the monthly newsletter.
- The possibility of having Mariana Vasquez coming in to present a program on SSI updates was discussed.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The following Board members were elected to as Board officers for the 2022-2023 term:

Elaine Paglia: Chair

Cynthia Muir: Vice Chair

Annie Maurer: Clerk

The following people were elected to serve on the Board:

Paul Bushey

Alice Sheridan

It was moved, seconded, and

Voted: To adjourn at 10:20 am.

The next meeting of the Newburyport Council on Aging Board of Directors will be on November 17, 2022 at 9:00 am.

Annie Maurer, Clerk