

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, November 30, 2023

The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, Jerry Reicher, Marcia St Louis, Linda Winslow, and Meaghan Priest. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Outreach Worker Jillian Nauman, and Nancy Aicardi. Three (3) guests were in attendance.

Absent: Josette Burke, Jim Pellegrine, Sandhya Malur, Joanne DiPietro, JoAnne Mulligan

10:02 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Janet Fasanello

1. Attendance was taken, and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Review of October Meeting Minutes
 - There were no corrections noted. Janet motioned and Jerry seconded
 - The vote was unanimous to accept the Minutes
3. Outreach Update – Jillian Nauman (slides were provided)
 - The total Outreach number for October was 475 to 253 unique individuals
 - a. The monthly numbers continue to rise
 - b. In person visits was up for a total of 169
 - c. The total number of Outreach was 503 in October – Shine and Fuel Assistance calls contributed to the large number
 - Jillian provided slides including a Pie Chart with the breakdown of categories of Outreach
 - a. Some of the higher numbers are seen in Medical Rides, Foot Care, Nursing/Wellness Clinic, Well Being Checks, and Medicare/Masshealth, which includes numbers for Shine – a big influx of Sharon residents was seen in October as they can't get appointments in Sharon
 - b. Medical Rides continues to be a big demand – the 5 RSVP drivers do help quite a bit, but this requires three times the number of phone calls to set up the rides
 - “Feel good” story
 - a. The Center received a cold call from a Realtor in Walpole regarding “blessing baskets”
 1. In the past, this Realtor has reached out to schools, churches, etc. and decided to reach out to the Center to see if there would be a small group who could benefit from these baskets of non-perishables
 2. Jillian offered the Grandparent Group specifically
 3. Grandparents don't necessarily have legal custody, so they can't count their grandchildren as part of the family unit, thus making them ineligible to receive benefits
 4. The Realtor, after learning more about the Grandparent Group, said they would put this Group on their list of recipients for the future
 - b. Janet offered to contact the Food Pantry to see whether boxes can be set aside for these grandparents to pick up at times other than the normal pick-up times at the Pantry
 1. Grandparents are unable to go during the regular time as they as picking up their grandchildren from school
4. Center Update – Kerri McManama (slides were provided)
 - The total number of rides increased to 492 in October
 - Check-ins
 - a. The numbers increased to 3,875
 - b. The YTD total check-ins are up to 48,693 which is astounding
 - c. The average daily check-in for October was 185, with the 70 – 79 age group staying the largest

- d. The In Town and Out of Town participants as well as the Female and Male participants ratios remain the same
 - NCOA Vaccine Update
 - a. The Center has distributed 384 of the original 421 gift cards purchased, with only 37 remaining
 - Staffing Update
 - a. Laurel will be retiring as of December 13th
 - b. Laurel was responsible for many good initiatives during her time at the Center, such as medical rides, help for “forgetful friends”, and more
 - c. The Center is planning a surprise event that day for Laurel
 - Upcoming events
 - a. The Center will be closed on December 22nd, December 25th, January 1st, and January 15th
 - b. Soup Lunch on Thursdays sells out in only 5 minutes!
 - c. Holiday Open House will be Friday, December 15th
 - d. Kerry submitted the final budget to the Town for review
 - e. The December/January registrations totaled 300 calls and walk-ins
 - 1. Kerri and Deb worked until 7pm to get through all the calls and messages
 - 2. Kerri spoke with Town Administration to make changes starting in February
 - Going forward, only Walpole registrations will be taken care of on registration day, then out-of-town registrations will be added later
 - Also, any pre-registrations for future months will be deleted from the My Active Center site
5. Finance Update – (Sandhya and Kerri provided slides, and Kerry reported)
- Total spent in October was \$2,702.72 (Operating Budget)
 - a. Printing/copying for the Senior Moments Group - It was decided that only small printing/copying jobs will be done at the Center, and any large printing and collating jobs will be sent out to Printworks
 - A total of \$3,147.93 of the Formula Grant was spent in October (does not include funds spent on salaries). The three categories where money was spent were Fitness/Wellness, Dues and Licenses, and Newsletter Printing (double months printing)
 - Gifts
 - a. The Center received \$350.00 in gifts in October
 - b. A total of \$1,180.56 was spent in October leaving a balance of \$14,711.84
6. Old Business
- Front Door Decal
 - a. Kerry and Jerry have not had an opportunity to meet
 - b. The biggest problem is the color – need to consider sight-impaired people
7. New Business
- Walpole Housing Update
 - a. A person has been selected for Denise’s position, but no name has been released
 - b. The Committee wants to be able to have an overlap prior to Denise leaving
 - Master Plan Update
 - a. Still on hold as the Planning Board is still waiting for the Consultant to appear before the Board
 - b. MBTA – The Town must turn in a plan in 2024 for the required multi-family housing within a certain distance of any train stations
 - 1. The MBTA included the stations at Walpole Center, Plimptonville – which the MBTA closed several years ago – and Windsor Gardens
 - Select Board Update
 - a. Walpole’s 300th Celebration – There will be a pyrotechnics and laser show to kick-off the 300th Celebration, 6-9pm at Stone Field on December 16th
 - b. Tax Shift
 - 1. The Select Board voted 3-1-0 to approve the Board of Assessors recommendation to increase the tax shift to 1.3. This will shift a portion of the tax burden to commercial properties from residential properties

- 2. Residential property assessments have risen this year, and this is the year the Middle School Override increase begins
- c. Bird Pond Dam
 - 1. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) spoke on the need to repair/improve the Bird Pond Dam
 - 2. The DCR has proposed covering the full cost, but will require cooperation from the Town on coordination and planning
- d. Special Education
 - 1. The BOS was presented with a five-year review of special education costs including the recent jump in FY24 tuition rates, inflation and the number of students entering the program
 - 2. FY24 issue can be resolved, but future volatility is a concern and must be taken into account when considering FY25 budget
- e. Tri-County Project
 - 1. Current payments to Tri-County will increase by an estimated \$120,000 in FY25
 - 2. Subsequent increases will total \$1.1 million annually by FY28 and for the remainder of the 30-year term
- f. WHS Renovation Project
 - 1. The design for the renovation and addition to WHS is projected to be complete in February 2024
 - 2. If the project goes ahead, the estimated schedule includes receiving bids in Fall 2024, and the project going before Fall Town Meeting 2024
- Friends of Walpole Elders
 - a. There was no report as Rich McCarthy was not present
- Looking ahead
 - a. Possibly Jim Johnson in February
 - b. Possibly have Chief of Police come in to speak to the Board
 - c. No replacement yet for Jose, the custodian, who is moving to a new position in town
 - d. Jerry brought up two issues
 - 1. Handicapped parking spots at the Center
 - Currently there are only 9 spots
 - Many more people need spots
 - Possibly by the dumpster
 - 2. The safety of people, especially slow walkers, crossing from the overflow lot across the street
 - There have been several near misses
 - Possibly have police help for big events
 - Need solutions to slow cars down

- 8. Open Forum
 - a. No questions from the guests

Next Meeting scheduled for December 28th, 10:00 AM at the Center

Janet motioned, and Meaghan seconded

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM