

# Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, April 27, 2023

The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, Sandhya Malur, Joanne DiPietro, Linda Winslow, Jerry Reicher, Marcia St Louis, Meagan Priest, and JoAnne Mulligan. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Outreach Worker Jillian Newman, and Nancy Aicardi. One (1) guest was in attendance.

Absent: Josette Burke, Jim Pellegrine

10:04 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Janet Fasanello

1. Attendance was taken, and then the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Welcome to Jerry Reicher, newly appointed Associate Member of the Board of Directors
3. Review of March Meeting Minutes
  - There were a few typographical corrections noted
  - Mary motioned and JoAnne Mulligan seconded the motion to accept the March Minutes with the few corrections
  - The vote was 8- 0- 1 to accept the March minutes, with Janet abstaining as she was absent last month
4. Outreach Update – Jillian Newman (slides were provided)
  - The total Outreach number for March was 453 to 256 unique individuals
    - a. The most common method remains by phone (232), but there were 203 in-person office visits, an increase of in-person requests over March
    - b. The most common referral method remains as “self”, although the drivers have become a very important resource as they see things that staff may not see
    - c. There was a big increase in calls/queries for non-medical rides, i.e., shopping, CVS, etc. The total of rides in March was 587
    - d. Jillian provided slides including a Pie Chart with the breakdown of categories of Outreach
      1. AARP Taxes were the largest demand for Outreach
        - Appointments will continue through April 10<sup>th</sup>
      2. Medical Rides continues to be a big demand
        - The Center continues to work to find a balance between medical rides, shopping, and rides for activities especially with only two drivers
  - Another “feel good” story
    - a. A gentleman calls every month for a ride to Lahey Clinic
    - b. He is on MassHealth, and eligible for Title III rides through HESSCO, but they limit each person to 3 rides maximum per year, and this does not reset until October
    - c. He is a younger senior with multiple health issues, and is not a veteran
    - d. He has no computer, no internet which makes the situation more difficult
    - e. Jillian spoke to this gentleman’s social worker and found out that he (the social worker) had registered the gentleman online for services
    - f. Jillian spent 45 minutes online and found all the information needed, including a telephone number for MassHealth’s transportation services
    - g. MassHealth partners with some transportation providers. The gentleman now has a telephone number to call to schedule his rides to Lahey Clinic

5. Center Update – Kerri McManama (slides were provided)
- Check-ins
    - a. Check in count continues to increase – there were 3,768 total check-ins in March, an increase of just under 1,000 over February's totals – and a steady increase month over month
    - b. Several days had a check-in count of over 200
    - c. March saw close to 800 unique individuals check in at the Center
    - d. The Center is seeing younger and younger individuals, and more men coming for programs
    - e. Fitness and recreation remain the highest numbers seen, and social events are increasingly well-attended
    - f. The Center is continuing to look at in-town versus out-of-town registrations as many programs have wait lists
  - Other Updates
    - a. The new breakfast items are popular and will continue through the summer – additional items are being added
    - b. Walpole Day is May 13<sup>th</sup> – Kerri thanked all the people that have signed up to help out
    - c. Volunteer luncheon was a successful event celebrating more than 70 volunteers – thanks to CRISP for assisting with the catering and dessert
    - d. The Center is adding additional sessions of the free chair exercise videos
    - e. Planning underway for a summertime event for newer members thanks to the Person of the Year monies from Rich McCarthy
  - Newsletter redesign has received much positive feedback
  - May initiative is to get photos of Center participants – especially since there are so many new people, and so many daily check-ins
  - Cash Management
    - a. FY22 the Center managed a total of \$43,701
    - b. FYTD, the Center has already managed a total of \$45,671
    - c. June initiative is to build awareness of Virtual Wallet feature, with a raffle with the winner to get additional free money in their Wallet
  - AARP Tax Update
    - a. There were 5 tax preparers this year
    - b. They were able to prepare 140 tax returns compared to 120 last year
    - c. It is estimated that these taxpayers saved a total of between \$21,000 and \$28,000 based on a commercial tax preparer charging \$150 to \$200 per tax return
    - d. 60 people, or 43% received all or part of the Senior Circuit Breaker Credit
    - e. One puzzling thing this year: many more taxpayers were showing up missing some of their tax forms. This is usually the case for the first couple of weeks, but this year it continued well into the tax season
  - March Events
    - a. Coffee and Conversation – average attendance was 38 (Falls and Home Modifications, The Crusades, The Medici Dynasty with Paolo Digregorio, The Art of Reiki, Lions Spaghetti Dinner (72), Diamond Dot Art Class (full!), and St. Patrick's Day Breakfast with WFD – full, 100!)
  - Upcoming events
    - a. Coffee and Conversation (Clash of the Titans, SNAP, HIP and Farmer's Market Coupons, Judicial Speakers Bureau, Healthy Living for your Brain and Body, The Old Colony Wrentham Branch Railroad Through Walpole: A History of our Rail Trail)
    - b. RI Lighthouse Tour - Offsite trip with Bloom Bus Tours
    - c. Fox 25 Tour
    - d. New Member Program – July start date
    - e. Summer Schedule returns in July – late Tuesdays and noon closures on Friday

6. Finance Update – (Sandhya provided slides)
  - Expenses are very much on track
  - Total spent in March was \$2,330.69 (Operating Budget)
    - a. Spent a little more for office supplies
    - b. The Center has raised the reimbursement a little for a few instructors that have larger classes – the Center is also collecting more money due to the larger classes
  - A total of \$1,003.39 of the Formula Grant was spent in March (does not include funds spent on salaries).
  - Gifts
    - a. The Center received a total of \$200.00 in gifts in March
    - b. A total of \$1,627.54 was spent in March leaving a balance of \$15,679.53
7. Old Business
  - New Board Associate Member – Jerry Reicher has been appointed by the Select Board for a one-year term
  - The Select Board has reappointed Josette Burke, Mary Jones and Sandhya Malur for three-year terms, and Marcia St. Louis as Associate Member for a one-year term
8. New Business
  - Walpole Housing Update – Linda attended the meeting
    - a. The meeting was straightforward
    - b. Maintenance items: landscaping at Diamond Pond and the parking lot at Neponset
    - c. Having a resident member on the Committee is very helpful
    - d. Occupancy at the Diamond Pond Community Room is an issue
  - Master Plan Update
    - a. The redline version was received
    - b. Redline version has gone back to the Consultant for corrections, and to have it geared more specifically for Walpole
  - Select Board Update
    - a. Important Dates
      1. April 27<sup>th</sup>: Finance Committee Public Hearing 7pm at Town Hall
      2. May 1<sup>st</sup>: Spring Town Meeting 7pm at WHS Auditorium
    - b. Walpole Farmer's Market – will run on Saturdays from 9 to 1, from June 10th to October 21st at Spring Brook Park
    - c. Allen Dam Project
      1. Need to execute a watershed agreement in order for the work to begin
      2. This agreement will kick-start the design and construction process to refurbish the structural components of the dam and raise the elevation to increase containment
      3. The project is expected to cost approximately \$5 million, and the Town will be responsible for 35% of the total cost
      4. The Town has planned for this work within the long-term Capital budget
    - d. Route 1A Construction – there has been a lack of communication from the State as to “what” and “when” of construction this Spring
    - e. South Walpole Field Complex – The bathroom facility will be opening this weekend with an automatic lock system between the hours of 8am to 9:30pm
    - f. Union MOAs – the Board voted unanimously to approve the agreements reached with the dispatchers, clerical, police, fire, and library employees which will be in effect until 2026
    - g. Adams Farm – they are considering banning dogs from Adams Farm as the leash laws are not being observed by all who visit there. The Board voted to have the AFC oversee a trial period of further spreading the word of the leash law
    - h. MWRA Connection – the Town is continuing to look into the scope and cost to hook-up to the MWRA at the Norwood town line. Still in the information gathering stage

- Friends of Walpole Update
  - a. Rich was not here to give a report
- Topics for Future Meetings:
  - a. May: Brendan Croak, Recreation Department and Formation of Nominating Committee for June Elections
  - b. June: Election of Officers; also “Anatomy” of this past year, and any topics, etc. for next year

9. Open Forum
  - a. No questions from the guest

**Next Meeting scheduled for May 25th, 10:00 AM at the Center**

Janet asked for a Motion to Adjourn – JoAnne motioned, and Sandhya seconded

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 AM