

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, February 24, 2022

The Monthly Meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, January 27, 2022, at 10:00am via Zoom Teleconference with the following members present Josette Burke, Linda Winslow, Janet Fasanello, Mary Jones, Jim Pellegrine, Roseanne Rockwell, Sandhya Malur-Wilson, Meagan Priest and Marcia St Louis. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin, Outreach Coordinator Laurel St. Pierre, and Nancy Aicardi. One (1) person also attended as a guest.

Absent: Richard McCarthy, Joanne DiPietro

The meeting was called to order at 10:06am by Janet Fasanello

1. Roll Call
2. Review of January 27th Meeting Minutes
 - Sandyha Malur made a motion to accept the Minutes and the motion was seconded by Linda Winslow. The vote to accept the Minutes via Roll Call was unanimous
3. Outreach Review – Laurel St. Pierre
 - Slides showing Outreach numbers were provided online
 - The total outreach for January was 471, an increase over December's numbers
 - Numbers seeing increases were AARP Tax Assistance, Foot Care Appointments, and Information/Research calls
 - Covid-19, Food Assistance and Volunteer Information calls were down
 - Christine, the Elder Advocate, retired the end of December 2021 and Kerri has picked up her duties
4. Center Statistics – Kerri McManama
 - Slides were provided online
 - In-person numbers were down somewhat in January due to the Omicron variant
 - Attendance is back up again in February with Fitness Room/Exercise classes being the biggest number
 - There no longer is a mask mandate in Town buildings
 - Members are encouraged to make their own decisions regarding mask wearing
 - Upcoming Events
 - March 17 – St. Patrick's Day Luncheon
 - April 3 – Lions Club Spaghetti Dinner
 - April 6 – Volunteer Appreciation Dinner
 - April 27 – Spring Fling
 - April 28 – Pizza and Proxy Party
 - May 10 – Castle Island Van Trip
 - May 17 – Shredding Party
 - May 26 – Summer Kick Off Party
5. Introduction of Marcia St Louis
6. Finance Report – Jim Pellegrine
 - Expenses totaled \$1,716.33 with electricity and gas for the vans as the two largest expenses
 - A total of \$3,741.85 of the Formula Grant was spent in January – the largest expense remains the part-time permanent salary

7. Old Business

- Master Plan Update – Janet Fasanello
 - Survey Results
 - Three top things people like about Walpole: open space, small-town feel, Walpole's location relative to highways, Boston, etc
 - Three top thing people would like to see improved: revitalize the downtown, more affordable housing across the board and make the streets safe for walking
 - Next Meeting: April 27th, in Open Forum Format
- Walpole Housing Authority Meeting Update
 - No one from the Board was able to attend the meeting
- Select Board Update
 - A brief overview of the February 8th meeting was provided by Ben Barrett
 - SeniorTax Exemption
 - a. Walpole is one of 8 towns in MA that have some form of this exemption
 - b. Additional work is required to assess the financial impact to the Town and to other taxpayers
 - c. A Home Rule Petition will have to be considered at Fall Town Meeting as the State mandates the amount of tax relief that towns are allowed to provide to residents
 - Walpole high school feasibility study
 - a. Town Meeting had previously approved \$400,000 to assess the High School Building and future infrastructure challenges with the building
 - b. The Board approved a contract for \$138,000 for a Feasibility Study as the first step
 - c. A new High School building is not part of this discussion
 - Elections and Precincts
 - a. Liz Gaffey updated the Board on the Precinct lines and RTM apportionment in Town, which the Board approved
 - b. Nomination Papers are now available at Town Hall
 - WFD New Hires: Michael Curran, Michael Shea, Jason Grant and Joseph LaFreniere
 - Spring Town Meeting
 - a. Scheduled for May 7th at 10:00am on the high school football field
 - b. Items include Town Budget, OPEB and Stabilization Funding, installation of solar arrays on top of Walpole Public School buildings, removal of the Personnel Board as a required entity and revisions to Walpole's stormwater management bylaws
 - Annual Budget
 - a. Jim Johnson has posted his 2022 Budget Message outlining plans for FY 2023 on the Town website
- Friends of Walpole Elders update – Representative did not attend Board meeting – no report
- Topics/Speakers for Upcoming Meetings
 - March: Sandy Pellegrine, Jim's wife, to give a talk about dementia and Alzheimer's and the difference between them
 - April: Sandhya's contact to be invited
 - May:
 - Meagan Priest will discuss ways to talk to and assist people with a new diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's
 - Selection of Election Committee for Slate of Officers for June's vote
 - "Autopsy" of this past year's meetings: looking for constructive criticism on format, minutes, how to improve meetings

8. New Business

- Covid-19 Update
 - The requirement of mask wearing in all Town buildings has been dropped
 - Overall numbers are improving
- Thank Yous
 - Josette has not sent one to Walpole Cooperative yet for the new van as there was a problem with the paperwork and license plates have not been issued. No lettering can be done on the van until plates have been issued.
 - Road Plates was sent out for their support of the birthday party

9. Open Forum

- No questions from the guest

Jim Pellegrine motioned, and Sandyha Malur seconded to adjourn this meeting

After a unanimous roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned at 10:41am

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 24th at 10:00am at the Center.