

Kevin

**COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OCTOBER 24, 2019**

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, October 24, 2019, in the Murphy Room of the Walpole Co-Operative Bank South Street at 10:00 a.m.

The following members were present:

Rich McCarthy, Chairperson, Regular Member
Josette Burke, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member
Linda Winslow, Secretary/Clerk, Regular Member
Mary Jones, Regular Member
Terry Lehrman, Regular Member
Rosanne Rockwell, Regular Member
Dorothy Smith, Regular Member
Janet Fasanello, Associate Member

The following member was absent:

Dolores Efthim, Regular Member

The following staff members were present:

Kerri McManama, Director
Debbie Fradkin, Assistant Director
Laurel St. Pierre, Outreach Worker

The following guest was present:

Mark Gallivan, Member of the Board of Selectmen

The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Rich McCarthy.

Pledge of Allegiance – All present faced the flag and recited The Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report – Two spelling errors were detected by Josette Burke and will be corrected. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed (8-0-0).

Treasurer's Report- Jim Pellegrine distributed copies of "Accounts for the Council on Aging Fiscal 2020," dated October 24, 2019. He brought everyone up to date on the current balances. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed (8-0-0).

Outreach Worker's Report – Laurel St. Pierre shared the highlights from her report. The total client outreach for September was 534. Office visits totaled 355 due to there being many more people coming tot the Center. Sixteen people seeked financial assistance. Fuel assistance will start on November 1. There were 40 inquiries regarding Medicare or Medicaid. Two very good SHINE counselors are offering assistance. Memory Café has increased to 23 people.

Assistant Director's Report—Debbie Fradkin reported that she is working on forming a Volunteer Program.

Director's Report – Kerri McManama reported that there were more than 100 new members in September. There were 293 people at the Center on Monday alone. In-town members are at 70 per cent and out-of-town members are at 30 per cent. Females are at 78 per cent and males are at 22 percent. Volunteer hours continue to grow. The Fitness Room opened on October 2. Debbie added that 36 people used it yesterday alone. It is open 3 days a week. A class is being held regarding osteoporosis. The sketch-book class was full. Over 200 people attended the Big Y Lunch and Learn Program on November 1. A Morning of Remembrance will take place on November 4. There will be a new evening program, "Aging with Dignity." An ice-cream social is scheduled for Friday, November 8. There will be a talk on another historical woman (the previous one was Cleopatra)). The trip to the Norwood Theatre is sold out. A volunteer luncheon is coming up. The Lions are offering a Thanksgiving Dinner that will be held some time after Thanksgiving Day. A contest is currently being held to celebrate the 1000th member.

As for staffing, Janet Nye, Principal Clerk, is scheduled to work 18 hours a week. Jim Hinds, van driver, is up to 30 hours a week. A new program coordinator has been approved. Special news – Breakfast will be served from 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. beginning November 4. It is provided by the schools. Suggested donation is \$3. Transportation will be provided by the van drivers. Client riders are expected to increase.,

Old Business – None.

New Business – (1) A potential problem was discussed regarding cleaning snow off of wheelchairs, etc.. One recommendation was to purchase snow blowers, special shovels, etc. A good resolution has not yet been found.

(2) The Food Pantry has left spoiled food behind. It was stated it shouldn't be up to the Senior Center to clean it up. As of last Friday, there has not been a proper answer. Josette stated that, after 3:00 p.m on Friday, she and others tried to clean the area up. It was pointed out that it shouldn't be up to volunteers at the Center to clean up. As of a few days ago, there has not been a proper answer. A suggestion was made by Janet to have a high-school student take care of the trash and left-over food. Mark Gallivan said he will look into it.

(3) Several people have mentioned stains have been left even after being cleaned. There was concern about health issues. Bathrooms, etc. are not as clean as they should be. Windows are not being washed. There have been coffee stains left behind. The answer as to who is in charge is Don Anderson. Kerri said she has exhausted the proper channels. The budget does not cover enough hours for cleaning. Mark said he will talk with Jim Johnson, Town Administrator, about this need. In the meantime, a list will be put together of what needs to be done. Also, more and more groups are meeting in the building at night.

(4) The question was asked what the procedure is for use of the building. Kerri stated that she and others are the persons to see about using the building.

(5) It was brought up that patio furniture should be put away.

(6) Linda Winslow told about the ALICE event, which is an emergency communication system, that was held recently at the Center. Special thoughts were expressed if there were people upstairs in the building during an emergency. Kerri will look into it. Another topic for discussion was expressed about the locking of doors in an emergency.

(7) Josette asked if anyone had any suggestions for the agenda next month. One suggestion was to have Debbie Fradkin explain about the Volunteer Program.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emily Conrad".

Emily Conrad, Secretary