

# Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 27, 2022

The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, October 27, 2022, at 10:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Josette Burke, Jim Pellegrine, Mary Jones, Sandhya Malur, Marcia St. Louis, Janet Fasanello, Linda Winslow, and Joanne DiPrieto. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin, COA Outreach Coordinator Jillian Newman and Nancy Aicardi. Two (2) guests were in attendance.

Absent: Meagan Priest

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance

Attendance was taken

10:04 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke

1. Jim Johnson, Town Administrator
  - Rescheduled to January 26, 2023 Meeting as he had a conflict today
2. Review of September Meeting Minutes
  - Sandhya asked that some additions be made under Finance Update, in the line item "Center spent approximately 89% of Budget" to reflect reduced spending is due to the lack of travel expenses due to COVID
  - Discussion of Gifts to Center (postponed from September's Meeting)
    - a. Do we keep all gifts anonymous, or publish the name(s)
    - b. It was decided to leave it up to the donor whether the Gift(s) would remain anonymous
    - c. Jim made a motion to leave the publishing of names up to the donor. Mary seconded the motion
    - d. The vote to accept this motion was unanimous
  - Marcia motioned and Janet seconded the motion to accept the September Minutes with the additional comments
  - The September Minutes with changes were accepted by a unanimous vote
3. Outreach Update – Jillian Newman
  - The total Outreach number for September was 403 with 239 unique individuals
    - a. The most common method was by phone
    - b. The most common referral method was self
    - c. Jillian provided slides including a Pie Chart with the breakdown of categories of Outreach
      1. Open Enrollment of Medicare is showing increasing numbers
      2. Marv is having several issues with the Forms submitted
        - People are forgetting their Medicare username and password
        - Marv has reset username and password many times for the same people
        - Marv and the Center have been spinning their wheels trying to reach people to get the correct information
    - d. The Center anticipates with the winter heating season upcoming and the cost of fuel going up that people will be asking for not only fuel assistance, but also food assistance, etc.
      1. If a client comes in looking for assistance, Staff at the Center always checks to see what other services they may need

4. State of the Center – Kerri McManama (slides were provided)
  - Growth
    - a. Numbers are starting to increase now that summer is over, and fall is here
    - b. Starting in the new year the Center will be prioritizing Walpole residents for program registration
    - c. What's trending:
      1. More and more new participants, especially younger-aged
      2. More and more people are consistently coming in for lunch
      3. There are increases across every category both in duplicated and unique
    - d. Breakfast officially launched in October
      1. Collaboration with Walpole schools
      2. Many of the items purchased to set up this new program have been supported by generous gifts received over the summer
  - Upcoming Events in November
    - a. Morning of Remembrance
    - b. Veteran Pancake Breakfast for Veterans and their families
    - c. Coffee Hour with Senator Rush
    - d. Thanksgiving with Blessed Sacrament School Kindergarten
    - e. Lions Club Thanksgiving Community Meal
  - Outside Use Policy (see slides)
    - a. The Center could be available for both public and private events
    - b. The process to develop this Policy was started pre-COVID
    - c. The Application is based on pre-existing applications for other Walpole Outside Use (Blackburn Hall, Schools, Adams Farm)
    - d. Fees determined after consultation with Buildings Department for Buildings coverage and comparison with other rentable spaces in Town
    - e. Non-Profit Fee available to 501c3 organizations
    - f. The Board has been provided the complete Application, policy, internal tracking tool, BOH Food Permit, Town of Walpole One Day Liquor License and Waiver of Liability
    - g. Further discussion and Vote to be taken at November's Meeting
5. Finance Update – (Sandhya Malur provided slides)
  - Total spent in September was \$2,041.53 (Operating Budget)
    - a. Starting to spend more on travel
    - b. On track for FY spending
  - A total of \$1,910.24 of the Formula Grant was spent in September (does not include funds spent on salaries)
    - a. The Center has received \$85,392.00 for this year's Formula Grant and it is already in the account, which is much earlier than usual
  - Gifts
    - a. The Center received a total of \$5,150.00 in gifts in September
    - b. A total of \$997.68 was spent on programs and coffee
6. Old Business
  - Friends of Norton Update
    - a. Recently an override was passed in Norton of which \$11 million is earmarked for a new COA Center
    - b. Walpole was very fortunate to have Mark Gallivan, Cliff Snuffer and four others that brought about our COA Center at a much lower cost to the taxpayers
7. New Business
  - Master Plan Update
    - a. The process is winding down
    - b. Committee is hoping to have a red-line version of the Plan for next month's meeting (the consultants have been slow in getting information back to the Committee)

- c. The Master Plan is looking at not only affordable housing, but also zoning in the Town
      - 1. Zoning for senior housing in Town is very restrictive currently
      - 2. Walpole has not reached the MBTA #'s for housing close to stations, but the MBTA has not finalized their terms yet
  - Walpole Housing Authority Meeting Update – Linda did not attend the meeting
  - Select Board Update (see sheet provided by Ben)
    - a. Rich McCarthy submitted his resignation at Tuesday night's Select Board meeting – accepted by the Board
    - b. The Fall Town Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> – the Board reviewed and voted "Favorable Action" on all 15 Articles on the Warrant
    - c. 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
      - 1. The volunteer committee organizing this event gave an update to the Select Board on progress and initial planning
      - 2. Looking for additional volunteers to help plan this event
    - d. ARPA Funds
      - 1. The Board heard a presentation from Sarah Khatib of Destination Downtown
      - 2. The Town plans to use funds for improvements for the Common area, pedestrian access, signage, and other similar upgrades
      - 3. The Board voted unanimously to apply to the County for \$100,000 to further expand the scope of these efforts
    - e. Trash and Recycling Pick-Up
      - 1. Due to revised State disposal regulations, the Town and pick-up service will no longer collect mattresses or box springs with trash starting November 1
      - 2. The Town is working with Boston Carting and other vendors so that residents have disposal options for these items
    - f. MBTA Foxboro Pilot
      - 1. The Board was joined by Mike Muller, Director of Commuter Rail for the MBTA and John Ray, Asst. General Manager for Operations for a discussion on the Foxboro Pilot Program and the MBTA's plans for improvements to Walpole Station
      - 2. MBTA has revised the Commuter Rail schedule to have train service evenly distributed throughout the day rather than multiple trains concentrated at peak times
      - 3. The Foxboro Pilot will run until September 2023 at which point the metrics will be considered by the MBTA and a decision made to continue the service or not
    - g. FY24 budget planning
      - 1. November begins the next financial cycle for the Town
      - 2. Department heads will be preparing updates and long-term budget proposals
  - Friends of Walpole Update
    - a. No report as Rich was not in attendance
    - b. Josette mentioned that the Friends paid for 3 Board members to go to MCOA Fall Conference in Falmouth
  - Topics for Future Meetings:
    - a. Josette asked for a vote to keep November and December as business meetings with no outside speakers
      - 1. Janet made a motion, with Sandhya seconding to vote to keep November and December as business meetings, then start with speakers again in January
      - 2. The vote was unanimously passed
    - b. Josette asked that people think about who they would like to have as speakers going forward
    - c. Josette suggested to Kerri to bring in Delia DeMello, Metropolitan Public Affairs Specialist at the SSA to speak on Social Security benefits
8. Open Forum – two questions from the Guests
- Are there many people waiting for Senior housing in Walpole

- a. Linda explained the process that once someone applies, their name is put on a Master List with the state. People indicate what towns they would like. Once your name comes up, if you do not accept what is being offered, your name goes to the bottom of the List
- b. The main issue is that Walpole does not have enough units
- What is happening with the 40B project in South Walpole
  - a. No permits have been applied for, so Walpole is out of the Safe Harbor
  - b. Once the builder applies, Walpole receives a 2-year Safe Harbor exemption
  - c. Currently, a “Friendly 40B” is to be built at the former Gilmore site

**Next Meeting scheduled for November 17th, 10:00 AM at the Center**

Josette asked for a Motion to Adjourn – Janet motioned, and Jim seconded

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 11:10 AM