

# Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, September 22, 2022

The Annual meeting of the Council on Aging Board was held on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 11:00am at the Walpole Council of Aging with the following members present; Josette Burke, Jim Pellegrine, Mary Jones, Meagan Priest, Sandhya Malur, Marcia St. Louis, and Richard McCarthy. Also in attendance was COA Director Kerri McManama, COA Assistant Director Debbie Fradkin, COA Outreach Coordinator Jillian Newman and Nancy Aicardi. Seven (7) guests were in attendance.

Absent: Janet Fasanello, Joanne DiPietro, and Linda Winslow

Attendance was taken

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance

11:05 AM: The Annual Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke

1. The picture of the full Board was postponed to the October meeting due to the three absences.
2. Josette reminded the Board that all members have received copies of the Policies and Procedures, as well as the Guide to Board Members and asked everyone to please review.
  - A Quorum is 5 members

11:09 AM: A motion was made by Sandyha Malur and seconded by Jim Pellegrine to close the Annual Meeting. The Vote was unanimous to close the Annual Meeting.

11:10 AM: The Monthly Meeting was called to order by Josette Burke  
(Note: the same members as above were in attendance)

1. Review of June Meeting Minutes
  - No additions or corrections
  - Sandyha motioned and Mary seconded for accepting the Minutes as is
  - The June Minutes were accepted by a unanimous vote
2. State of the Center – Kerri McManama
  - The Center is coming up on its 4th Anniversary (FY is July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>)
  - Community
    - a. The focus of the Center remains on Community – Welcoming, Warmth, and a Sense of Belonging
      1. Participants are getting younger and more active
      2. Female participants far outweigh male participants, though male participation is increasing
  - Growth
    1. FY 2021 the checkin count was 4,850...FY 2022 the checkin count was 23,598
    2. Wednesdays are the busiest days
    3. FY 2022 saw 473 new participants
    4. 105 Users have signed up for MyActive Center which greatly reduces the number of phone calls for program registrations

- There were still 108 phone calls/walk-ins on September 19th for October registrations
- 5. The Center has a lot of new members from residents of Pennington Crossing
- 6. The Town Clerk gives the COA names of anyone turning 90 – they get a personal, congratulatory call from the Center
- 7. The Town Clerk also gives the Center the names of anyone turning 65. This enables the Center to enter information into the System to minimize issues when the person comes to register for the first time
- 8. The COA is open 40 hours /week
  - Last FY saw a 158% increase post COVID in number of programs (3,496), and a 239% increase of program participation post COVID (14,875)
- Support (Outreach)
  1. Jillian Newman – additional Outreach Coordinator in addition to Laurel
    - She is a Walpole resident, a nurse, and has an MA in Counseling and Guidance
  2. Outreach had 4,917 total transactions for FY22
    - The greatest numbers are seen in Food Assistance, Foot Care, Information/Research, Medical Rides, Medicare/Masshealth Assistance and Well Being Checks
  3. There is a growing need for Medical Transportation
    - All Medical transportation is coordinated through Outreach and all riders must complete a Van Assessment prior to riding
    - Outreach has completed over 100 assessments thus far
    - Title III is a Grant to provide medical transportation outside of our area. It is limited to a taxi ride to and from appointments, so may not be appropriate for everyone
  4. “Crisis Intervention”
    - Urgency, Length of Time, Coordination of Services, Collaboration with other Departments, Medical Incidents, True Emergencies
    - 9 Interactions in July and August, September has had 22 Interactions
- Volunteerism
  - last year there were 68 volunteer positions available, filled by 1,225 people for a total of 3,578 hours or a savings of \$76,183 for the Center.
- Opportunity
  1. Breakfast Café
    - Program in collaboration with WPS for Daily Breakfast (Continental breakfast on days school is not open)
  2. Boston Post Cane Program
    - Being reintroduced in January
    - To recognize the oldest man and woman in Walpole
    - Coordinating with Betsy Dyer from the Historical Society
  3. Formula Grant
    - Currently based on 2010 Census and \$12.00/senior – 4,960 seniors, or \$59,520
    - There are no definite numbers from the 2020 census – the estimate is 6,889 seniors, or \$82,668 – hopefully the Center will receive the funds in February
    - Previously Contracts with the State of Elder Affairs were for a one-year period. Going forward, they will be for a ten-year period
- Staffing Updates
  1. Program Coordinator Position
    - This position will be posted soon
  2. Outreach
    - Laurel and Jillian will be sharing the week for a total coverage of 35 hours which increases coverage
    - Laurel – Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday (23 hours)
    - Jillian – Thursday, Friday (12 hours)

- Summer Updates
  1. Second successful summer with Town Hall hours
  2. Several well-attended and unique events: Wellness Night, Movie Night, It's Showtime, and Swing Night Dinner Dance
- 3. Finance Update – (Sandyha Malur provided slides)
  - Program Money comes from the Town Budget, the Formula Grant, and Gifts
  - The Center spent approximately 89% of the General Fund in FY22
    1. The amount spent this past year was due to a reduction in travel expenses and the fact that the MCOA Conference was not held in-person due to COVID
  - Total expenses for July and August were \$4,618.01 (Town Budget)
  - A total of \$2,098.60 of the Formula Grant was spent in May (does not include funds spent on salaries)
  - Gifts
    1. The Center received a total of \$6,740 in gifts in July and August
    2. Vote on how often to show Gift Money in the Financial Report and whether to name names or keep anonymous
      - Sandyha made a motion to put the Vote off until next month – Seconded by Jim
      - The Vote to put this discussion off until next month was unanimous
- 4. Old Business
  - Master Plan Update
    - a. No report this month as Janet Fasanello is absent
  - Walpole Housing Authority Meeting Update – Josette attended the meeting
    - a. Most of the meeting was spent on how to deal with the resignation of a member who is moving out of the area
    - b. Overview of Capital Fund
    - c. Some refrigerators were swapped out at Neponset
  - Select Board Update
    - a. The Fall Town Meeting has been scheduled for Monday, October 17th
    - b. Recreation Study
      1. Consultant Weston & Sampson briefed the board on the findings of this study which was conducted in concert with Town Personnel
      2. The Study assessed the need for improvements to facilities: Blackburn Hall, South Walpole Pool, Center Pool, and East Walpole Library
      3. The Board had a discussion on the recommendations and how best to plan for and fund this work, or if it is in the best interest of the Town to close any of these facilities. More information to come.
    - c. ARPA Funds
      1. The Board voted unanimously to allocate \$1.4M of ARPA funds to upgrade components of the Town's water supply system
      2. This allocation is subject to approval through the County process
      3. The Board will continue to weigh options for the remaining funds in the months ahead
    - d. School Bonds
      1. The Board voted unanimously to accept and sign the school bonds which represent the remaining value required for the middle school project
      2. The Town has been able to secure financing for the school project at rates below the original estimate
    - e. Friendly 40B
      1. The developer of the Gilmore stie presented the updated concepts, briefly, 142 rental units with 1.2 parking spaces/unit
      2. New layout has reoriented and lowered the building at the street
      3. Town Department Heads have reviewed and commented on the proposal including public safety

4. Next step is for the Town to write up a Memorandum of Agreement for review and approval by the Select Board
- f. Quarterly Reports
  1. WPD Chief Kelleher and WFD Chief Bailey updated the Town on operations and planning over the last few months
  2. The WPD has secured grant funding and is actively seeking to hire for the new social services/clinician position
- g. MBTA Schedule Changes
  1. Re-start of the Foxboro line trains
  2. Reduction in stops at the Walpole Station
  3. MBTA did not provide any notice or information on these decisions
- h. INTERFACE Program
  1. This is a program that the Town of Walpole sponsors for all residents
  2. Free, confidential mental health outpatient referral service for children, adults, and families
  3. <https://interface.williamjames.edu/community/Walpole>
- Friends of Walpole Update – Rich McCarthy represented the Friends
  - a. The members include: Beth Pelick, Mary Dugdale, Roger Thomas, Stacy Murphy, Krissy Dalton Connolly, Betsy Hoegler, and Rich McCarthy
  - b. Rich did not have any information on funds in the account
  - c. Going forward, the Friends would like a Quarterly Update from the COA for funds requests
5. New Business
  1. Topics for Future Meetings:
    - October 27th – possibly Sandyha's friend regarding the Free Pet Clinic
    - Jim Johnson – possibly October 27<sup>th</sup>
    - Denise Landry – possibly in the Spring
6. Open Forum – no questions from the Guests

**Next Meeting scheduled for October 27th, 10:00 AM at the Center**

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

After a unanimous vote, the Meeting was adjourned at 12:10 AM