

Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, January 27, 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*, Richard McCarthy*, Mary Jones, Jim Pellegrine, Roseanne Rockwell, Sandhya Malur-Wilson, Meagan Priest and Joanne DiPietro. Also in attendance was Select Board Member Mark Gallivan, 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. *left meeting early

Absent: Marcia St Louis

Prior to the Meeting, Josette announced that the COA Executive Board met on January 13th to conduct interviews for the open COA Board positions. Their recommendations were forwarded to the Select Board, which voted on the recommendations at their Meeting on January 25th. Sandhya Malur was appointed as a full member, and Marcia St Louis was appointed as an associate member. The COA Board now has 9 members and 2 associate members.

The meeting was called to order at 10:00am by Josette Burke and a roll call was taken

1. Liz Gaffey, Town Clerk

- Redistricting in Walpole
 - Redistricting is looked at on even years of the census, so 2020 in this case
 - 2010 census: population was 24,070, and 2020 census: population is 26,386
 - Walpole still has 8 precincts, but the lines have moved slightly
 - The new precincts took effect 12/31/2021
 - Walpole's census forms will be coming out shortly – they will have current precinct number in top left corner
- Town Meeting Members
 - Nomination papers for June's Town election will be available February 1st
 - RTM Nomination papers will be available later in February
 - The Town will run a full slate of RTM members elections in June
- Open Meeting Law
 - Comes from the Attorney General's office – last revised in 2017
 - The purpose of this Law is to ensure transparency; ensure meetings are open to the public; and balance the public's interest in witnessing the deliberations with government's need to manage its operations efficiently
 - Three major issues
 - Agenda must be posted no less than 48 hours prior
 - Must be posted and accessible 24 hours a day including website and, in an ADA accessible location
 - Level of Detail: must contain date, time and place of meeting (must list specific matters to be discussed)
 - Minutes
 - Must contain date, time, place of meeting, and members present and absent
 - Must be specific enough to allow someone who was not present to know what went on
 - Record of voting must be specific, i.e. unanimous, 5-3-1, etc.
 - Are public and official record of meeting and are a public record as of creation

- Approval – within three meetings or 30 days whichever is later
 - Must contain detailed summary of each topic, decisions made, actions taken and votes recorded
 - If a copy of the minutes is requested, they must be available within 10 days of request
2. Review of December 16th Meeting Minutes
 - One correction was noted: under Master Plan Update, it should read, “Next meeting of Committee is January 25th via Zoom”, not “January 28th”
 - Janet Fasanello made a motion to accept the Minutes with the one correction, and the motion was seconded by Linda Winslow. The vote to accept the Minutes with the one correction was 8-0-1 with Rich McCarthy abstaining
 3. Outreach Review – Laurel St. Pierre
 - Slides showing Outreach numbers were provided online
 - The total outreach for September was 433, a decrease from December, mainly due to Open Enrollment being over
 - Numbers seeing increases are Covid-19 calls, HESSCO calls, Nursing Clinic and Volunteer Information
 - Foot Care and Food Assistance calls were down
 - Outreach numbers per calendar year are: 2019 – 4089; 2020 – 9728; 2021 – 8153
 4. Center Statistics – Kerri McManama
 - Slides were provided online
 - In-town participants versus out-of-town participants are running 75% to 25%
 - The COA Annual Report has been submitted to the Town and is available upon request
 - The Walpole Cooperative has unexpectedly donated a New Ford Transit Connect XLT
 - Is the size of a minivan, so lower capacity than current COA vans
 - There are sliding doors on both sides and no steps
 - Will be perfect for medical rides with just 1 or 2 people and no CDL required
 - 5-year Capital Plan for department reflects purchase of new Ford cutaway 14 passenger van in CY 2025 (current 16 passenger and possibly 10 passenger van could be turned in toward purchase)
 - The St. Patrick’s Day breakfast has been reimagined as a lunch this year on the actual day provided by Crisp – cost of \$7 for corned beef sandwich, chips and a drink (Center sponsoring \$1 for each attendee)
 - Health Insurance Reimbursement for Fitness Programs might be available. The Center can print out a list of all fitness classes attended for submission.
 - “My Active Center” an online registration system is now active – positive feedback
 - The Center will keep classes that have limited numbers, or which usually have a wait list limited to phone registration
 - Upcoming Programs
 - AARP Tax Assistance starting February 7th
 - February 10th – George Ransom of Walpole Historical Society on Walpole’s barns
 - February 16th – Be Our Valentine’s Day Luncheon
 - Wii Bowling to resume, Learn to Play Cribbage class to start
 - “Wallet”
 - Center participants can now prepay for programs and monies will go into a “bank”
 - Participants will be able to draw from their “wallet” as they attend programs
 5. Finance Report – Jim Pellegrine
 - Expenses totaled \$1,866.90
 - A total of \$4,322.19 of the Formula Grant was spent in December – the largest expense remains the part-time permanent salary

6. Old Business

- Master Plan Update – Janet Fasanello
 - The winning logo (drawn by a high school student) is of the small bridge near Morgan Field near where the farmer's market is held
 - The Committee met on January 25th and came up with 10 different areas of interest, which will be divided amongst the committee members for further research and study
- Walpole Housing Authority Meeting Update
 - Josette thought it would be via Zoom, but was held in person instead
 - No one from the Board was able to attend
- Select Board Update
 - A brief overview of January 11th and 18th meetings was provided by Ben Barrett
 - The Board held a lengthy and detailed discussion on the proposed County Solar Project
 - a. Board is disappointed in the way the County has pushed this through with no opportunity for public presentation of comment
 - b. Norfolk County notified the Board on December 21st of its intent to install solar panels on a parcel adjacent to Fisher St, Walden Dr, and Susan Dr
 - c. The Town has 90 days to decide whether to match the County's valuation for the solar lease which amounts to \$725,000 over a 20-year period
 - d. Not financially viable for the Town to enter into a lease agreement for this amount – will notify the County as such
 - Senior Means-Tested Tax Exemption
 - a. Brief discussion on the concept where seniors can apply under certain parameters for additional tax relief beyond the current State mandated allowances
 - b. Similar programs in other Towns to see how it might fit for Walpole are being studied
 - ARPA Funds
 - a. The Board approved the application for five capital projects to be submitted for funding: Bridge Rehabilitation Design for Elm/East St bridges downtown, bathroom facilities at the South Walpole Community Athletic Complex, June St drainage repair, Winter St sewer extension and Walpole High School HVAC upgrades
 - Annual Budget update
 - a. Current draft budget is balanced, but there are still important variables that will be solidified in coming months including insurance costs and State Aid
- Topics/Speakers for Upcoming Meetings
 - February Board meeting is to be a regular meeting with no outside speakers
 - Josette proposed that Sandy Pellegrine, Jim's wife, give a talk about dementia and Alzheimer's and the difference between them at our March meeting
 - Josette proposed Sandhya's contact be invited to the April meeting
 - Josette proposed for Meagan to discuss ways to talk and to assist people with a new diagnosis of dementia or Alzheimer's for the May meeting
 - Josette then asked for a vote on these three suggestions: Janet made a motion, and Linda seconded
 - The vote was unanimous to approve speakers for March, April and May meetings
- Friends of Walpole Elders update – Representative did not attend Board meeting – no report

7. New Business

- Covid-19 Update
 - Currently there is a mask requirement in all Town buildings when 6 feet distance cannot be maintained

- Kerri to look into the government's distribution of free masks as to where they will be available
- Fitness Center
 - Now open 5 days a week from 8:30 – 11:30
 - Positive response

8. Open Forum

- No questions from the guest

Jim Pellegrine motioned, and Mary Jones seconded to adjourn this meeting

After a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15am

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for February 24th at 10:00am via Zoom teleconference.