

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING

March 16, 2023

The Board of Directors of the Newburyport Council on Aging met on this date at the Newburyport Senior/Community Center, 131 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950.

Board Chair Elaine Paglia called the meeting to order at 9:07 am.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Elaine Paglia Rosemary Decie Richard Eaton John Green Annie Maurer
Yvonne McQuilkin Erin Sheehy Paul Bushey

MEMBERS ABSENT

Macie Neville (excused) Alice Sheridan (excused)

STAFF PRESENT

Paula Burke: Director, Newburyport Council on Aging

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Having reviewed the Secretary's minutes of the previous meeting, it was moved, seconded, and VOTED: To accept the Secretary's report of the Board of Directors Meeting of February 16, 2023.

DIRECTORS REPORT - Paula Burke

- Programs are going well and activities and outreach are looking to increase socialization after programs.
- The city is looking for places in this area for open play pickleball that is more for casual players and less competitive. The Bresnahan courts will be used for the COA programs this July and August.
- Ann has launched a speakers series on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. Next week there will be a talk on nutrition from Age Span. There will be a series of programs on the circuit breaker tax break for low income homeowners and renters. Sen. Tarr will speak and he and Rep. Shand have been invited to come to a Board meeting.
- Tax appointments are full and there are 25 people on the waiting list.
- Community partners of the COA are provided time to meet between 1 and 4 in the dining room.
- The budget Paula submitted was smaller than last year's due to a retirement.
- The Outreach Specialist's job has been reviewed and minor adjustments made.
- The Board will need to approve updated facilities guidelines for COA and Community Center. Adjustments were made to the policies on food and drink and on service animals. There was a discussion on how to verify that service animals are genuinely so. Rosemary, Paul, and Elaine will check with the transportation services and Anna Jaques about their policies.

- Spring Fling is on March 23 between 4 and 6:30 and there will be an open house in May. A Summer Fest has been scheduled for mid June.
- It was proposed that a Facilities Subcommittee be established to discuss facilities issues and bring them to the Board.

VOTED: To establish a Facilities Subcommittee to report to the Board.

BOARD BUSINESS

- On May 4 all boards and commissions throughout the city will be available to provide information to members of the community between 6:00 pm and 7:30 pm. Next meeting we will discuss the things we think should be available.
- Bylaws and Ordinances
 1. Board terms are now limited to three years.
 2. Head of the Board is now referred to as the Chair.
 3. Maximum time on the Board is now nine years and members who wish to serve another term must reapply by sending in a resume and meeting with the mayor.
 4. Is the Board nomination committee involved in the re-application process?
- The Transportation Subcommittee is meeting monthly. There are concerns that there are no bus routes in the south end of town. We will request information from the city clerk for a breakdown of where seniors live in town. The Board recommends that the COA have a seat on the MEVA Board.
- Still waiting to get approval from the City Council for the digital sign.

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 10:23 am.

The next meeting of the Newburyport Council on Aging will be on April 21.

Annie Maurer, Clerk