

**Town of Natick
Council on Aging Board Committee
Monday, January 09, 2023**

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Saul Beaumont; Andrew Eschtruth; Harriet Merkowitz; Karen Oakley; Sue Peters; Connie Pitt; Judy Sabol; Mal Sockol; Rick Subber

Board Members Absent: Elaina Danahy;

Associate Members Present: Sal Pandolfo; Linda Jaffe

Associate Members Absent:

Guest Speaker: Debbie Budd, LSW, Social Worker, Natick Council on Aging and Human Services

COA Staff: Lorraine McNally, Deputy Director, Council on Aging and Human Services

Chair Judy Sabol opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed board members and staff.

- 1) **Public Concerns**— none
- 2) **Guest Speaker** – Debbie Budd, Social Worker, Council on Aging and Human Services
 - a) Debbie is working to implement a Memory Café. Memory Café's have been around since 1997 starting in the Netherlands to address the social isolation. It is a welcoming place for individuals with cognitive impairment and their care partner. Enjoy socialization, activity and possibly refreshments. The new Natick offer will be: Meaningful Connections: Memory Café, March 16, 11:30-1pm, and monthly thereafter on 3rd Thursday of the month so it doesn't conflict with existing Café's. Musical entertainment for the 1st hour, boxed lunch and time to socialize. Flyers from Alzheimer's Association, home safety, support groups and other support services will be available.
 - b) The first four months are scheduled with musical entertainers. A couple of volunteers plus Debbie will be facilitating. Ask people to register so can plan lunches. Some start with just a couple of attendees and then grow to 10 or so. Even just a couple of attendees is very helpful for those impacted from memory issues. No charge for the Memory Café. Debbie wrote a grant to support. Home Care and Assisted Living Centers are good for financial support. Sign up directly with Debbie to volunteer or participate.
 - c) March/April newsletter will have 'Did You Know' on Memory Café. Considering flyers or invitation cards.
- 3) **Chair's Report**- Judy Sabol
 - a) Review of Draft Annual Report – Add Liaisons to show Board is interested and encourage any other groups who may want a liaison. Annual Report is in library and sent to Town Meeting members as well as Department Heads. Annual Report is due

January 15. Number to be updated to more than 8000 people being emailed the newsletter. Please send updates to Judy Sabol by January 11.

- b) Rules of Governance to be finalized with Select Board – COA Rules of Governance is on the Consent Agenda for Select Board agenda of January 11.
 - c) “Do You Know” Column – Memory Café and other memory support in March/April, Meal on Wheels for May/June, Natick School Senior Citizen Pass near School start. Only need a couple more topics. Sue Peters noted Housing Subcommittee would like to participate for an issue. Something on Social Security and Medicare Enrollment was also suggested.
 - d) Other – Still have a vacancy on Council on Aging Board and welcome any suggestions or anyone who might be interested.
- 4) **Deputy Director’s Report** – Lorraine McNally
- a) Staff & Budget Updates – Budget for FY24 is under development. Anticipate level funding; may shift some funds around. Completed initial round to post some positions. Meeting with Susan Ramsey and Parks & Recreation Deputy Director to develop a coordinated structure across Community Services. Each Deputy Director posted two assistant director positions. Assistant Director of Programs and Assistant Director of Services & Outreach positions open for Council on Aging and Human Services (COA/HR). Park & Recreation (P/R) will have a facilities Assistant Director and will assist with the facility management including Senior Community Center. Looking at Volunteer position across COA/HR & P/R under Assistant Director. Two administrative assistant positions are open.
 - b) Programs & Services Updates – Goal 1 develop partnerships: Working with Anthology for February entertainer at Valentines Day event. Riverbend, Whitney Place, etc help with funding and sponsorship. For trip program, working closely with Wellesley COA to bring trips back. Very different vendors with higher prices and no trip insurance. By working with Wellesley provide more protection for the trip to run. Also, reaching out to other departments to provide different programs such as Farm, etc.
- 5) **Subcommittee and Work Group update**
- a) Housing Subcommittee Update—Sue Peters – Plan to meet on January 23 and get info from Susan Ramsey on current ADU program/rules in Natick.
- 6) **Liaison Reports**
- a) Friends of the Natick Senior Center—Karen Oakley – Friends meet January 10. At Dec 13 meeting, the Gift Shop is doing well and had a Christmas Sale. No Bingo in December. Sent a donation to Fiske Methodist Church for allowing them to use facility for transport to Regal Theater. MaryJane Burgess attending Program Committee. They are concerned with the new lunch program. Two chairs have requested to meet with Jamie Erikson to discuss why they can’t hold programs at Senior Center.
 - b) Springwell Elder Services—Harriet Merkowitz, Sue Peters. – Will not meet until the end of January.
 - c) Disability Commission – Sue Peters – co-sponsoring part of MLK Day celebration.

- 7) **Board Concerns—**
 - a) Karen Oakley noted confusion whether membership is required to go to the Center (use participant instead in communication) as well as the differentiation between the Council on Aging and the Friends organization. Clarify language in newsletter.
 - b) Natick Elderly and Disabled Taxation Fund Committee – Ten applications and gave out \$25000 for tax relief.
 - c) Metrowest Climate Change attended by Andrew Eschtruth. Seniors may be more vulnerable to climate impacts and defining services available.
 - d) Board Membership list updated.
 - e) Tours at Anthology starting January 23-28, 2023.
- 8) **Deputy Director Concerns – none**
- 9) **Secretary's Report—**Minutes of December 12, 2022, were reviewed. Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Mal Sockol seconded. The motion passed (9-0-0).
- 10) Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Saul Beaumont seconded. The motion carried (9-0-0). Chair Judy Sabol declared the meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Pitt, Secretary