

Town of Natick

Meeting Minutes for January 9, 2026

Posted in Accordance with the Provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30A §§ 18-25, AS AMENDED

Council on Aging Board Safety Workgroup Meeting

Meeting Purpose: First Meeting of Safety Workgroup.

DAY, DATE & TIME: Friday, January 9, 2026 1:00 PM

1. Call to Order : Meeting commenced at 1:00 PM. Attendees: Jim Fitzgerald, Laura Forker, Mal Sockol
2. Public comment: none. (no one dialed into Zoom).
3. Committee discussion

We discussed several ideas that our workgroup will work on:

1) We are considering developing a simple SCAMS/FRAUD awareness "poster" directed mainly at Seniors that could be displayed at various venues across town (e.g., Library, Senior Center, Coolidge Gardens, Cedar Gardens, Sherwood Village, Town Hall, etc.) and include INFO on who to reach out to if you suspect or experience a SCAM or FRAUD.

2) We would like to reach out to the Natick Police Department to discuss potential programs we could partner on. The Contact is Lieutenant Chad M. Howard who was at the last Natick Resource Fair.

a) Initially we would like to suggest to the Speaker Committee that he (Lt. Howard) may be a good candidate to come in and discuss with the board the best way we could do these programs.

b) Programs may include things beyond just scams/fraud - thinking of basic tips for Seniors to stay safe (examples: locking up cars, not leaving phones or wallets visible in cars, homes, etc.)

c) We also want to make sure we do these programs at various venues in addition to the Natick Senior Center.

3) Also considering reaching out to DPW for their perspective on Senior Safety Tips given the increasing amount of construction in Natick. What areas should

pedestrians avoid? (For example, we have seen many senior walkers with shopping bags in the 9/27 area crossing that bridge and as that project continues should we alert these pedestrians to potential risks, etc or provide alternatives?)

4) In relation to the walking concerns given construction, we may want to see if the transportation options that we already provide can help with those situations and perhaps we can advertise those transportation options even more (especially that they're free for Natick seniors).

5) Topic of medication management was reviewed and the issue of prescription errors was discussed. We will discuss this further with the Health Workgroup.

6) We continue to collect good articles on a variety of safety topics including Contractor Scams ... one of which was highlighted recently since a Natick resident provided a downpayment to a habitual contractor scammer.

Status on past efforts that we continue to work with Donna on are:

- Series on Financial Scams (from Needham Bank).
- Identify a speaker to talk about Romance Scams (e.g., active & retired Natick police officers, AARP).
- Continue to work to see how to best deliver the video documentary series on No Country for Old People – A Nursing Home Expose. One idea is to identify the LTC Ombudsman responsible for Natick (believe it is via Springwell) to mediate such sessions.

4. The above points were finalized and will be presented in summary form to the board.

5. Next meeting will be TBD.

6. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 PM.

*Items in Agenda may be taken in different order than above.

Respectfully submitted by James Fitzgerald, COA Safety Workgroup Member