

**Town of Natick
Council on Aging Board Committee
Monday, February 13, 2023**

Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: Sue Peters

Associate Members Present: Sal Pandolfo

Associate Members Absent: Linda Jaffe

Guest Speaker: Mikaela “Miki” Wolfe, MLIS, Director of the Morse Institute

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

Chair Judy Sabol opened the meeting at 7:02 pm and welcomed board members and staff. Paula Panchuk joined the meeting and expressed interest in participating in the COA Board.

- 1) **Public Concerns**— none
- 2) **Guest Speaker** – Mikaela “Miki” Wolfe, MLIS, Director of the Morse Institute
 - a) Miki Wolfe joined the Morse Institute in July 2021. Miki worked at Sharon, Oak Bluffs in Massachusetts as well as libraries in Florida. Morse Library is one of two public libraries in Natick and is adding new services and programs.
 - b) Working to revise the website. Click “Digital Branch” to get the improved web experience. Celebrating 150 years as a library this year. Part of a library speakers consortium. 22 wireless hot spots available for 2 weeks at a time for loan to patrons.
 - c) English as a second language will be starting up again.
- 3) **Chair’s Report**- Judy Sabol
 - a) Rules of Governance – Officially approved by the Select Board and sent to all COA Board members.
 - b) CPA Governance set-up – Update from Gneshe Ramashadran. CPA has passed. Select Board sponsors a warrant article for Spring Town Meeting. CPA committee identified and then will hire a consultant to develop a plan. Then after the plan is approved, then articles to spend the CPA funds can begin in about two years.
 - c) Other – Lorraine and Judy proposing pickleball work group. Working with Emily to collect data. Consider checkin at gym rather than front desk to get more complete attendance data.
- 4) **Deputy Director’s Report** – Lorraine McNally
 - a) Staff Updates – Serena Roberts hired as Admin Assistant coming from Park & Rec and knows Community Pass. Promoted Emily Meyers to Assistant Director of Programs. Emily still doing rentals until Parks & Rec hire resource allocation position to manage

rentals. Lorraine is currently hiring for the Assistant Director of Services and a second admin assistant.

- b) Strategic Plan: Programs & Services Participation & Access – Reorganization of the department supports the strategic plan goal to provide services and meet unmet needs. Make sure that staff meets the future needs of seniors and everyone using services of the Community services organization. Volunteer position on hold at the moment but still planning to address. Goal 2 is to provide for a range of access points. Biweekly e-newsletter adoption strong and enabled newsletter to go to 6 issues per year. 125 copies being snail mailed and all the rest are emailed or picked up at Natick town buildings.
- c) Other – Program committee hasn't met recently. Lorraine will work with Emily to transition leadership to Emily.

5) Subcommittee and Work Group update

- a) Housing Subcommittee Update—Sue Peters – ADU and shared housing being pursued to find info. Natick has Family Suite rules which are different from ADU with concerns how monitoring would be managed. Working to determine how to share housing information.
- b) Other

6) Liaison Reports

- a) Friends of the Natick Senior Center—Karen Oakley – Met on January 10 and meet again tomorrow. Gift Shop is doing well; \$375 in December. Grisby estate left donation to Friends of the Senior Center; funds have been invested and terms of the estate specify that the funds may only be spent on programs or services for Natick Seniors. Friends plan to create a subcommittee to propose use. Would like to provide coffee and desserts at the center for seniors. Lorraine provided a short list of furniture, shelter out back, and other needs of the center for the Friends to consider. Concern expressed that Gym is consumed by Pickleball.
- b) Springwell Elder Services—Harriet Merkwitz, Sue Peters. – Springwell had January meeting where change in Meals on Wheels source for meals announced that all meals will come from Woburn. Will come in cold and need to be heated. Hope to provide kosher and ethnic meal choices currently provided by the old Springwell. BSSM program to bring people from Nursing Home to alternative. Transportation alternatives being worked on. Concerns discussed on the need for volunteer Meal on Wheels drivers.
- c) Disability Commission – Sue Peters – no update.

7) Board Concerns—

- a) Emergency Shelter for cold snap with short hours at Senior Center & Library. Thought Senior Center was supposed to be a real Emergency Shelter. Health Department determines the set-up of Emergency Center and bring out cots. Lorraine can ask for more information on Emergency shelter options. Applies both winter and summer.
- b) Member list with dates and terms, provide updates to Judy to get web site updated.

- c) Durable medical equipment loan program, suspended during COVID, need to be restarted. Was running until recently due to lack of staffing. Only on hold for a few weeks. Serina hired and will re-establish the program. Update inventory, process for loan/return. Program is back.
- 8) **Deputy Director Concerns** – none
- 9) **Secretary's Report**—Minutes of January 09, 2023, were reviewed. Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes; Mal Sockol seconded. The motion passed (9-0-0).
- 10) Andrew Eschtruth made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Harriet Merkowitz seconded. The motion carried (9-0-0). Chair Judy Sabol declared the meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Pitt, Secretary