

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

Minutes

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

Board Members Absent: Rick Subber

Associate Members Present: Linda Jaffe; Sal Pandolfo

Associate Members Absent:

Guest Speaker: George L. Richards, III, Esq., South Natick Law for 200 Pond Road Senior Housing Proposal

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.

- 1) **Public Concerns**— none
- 2) **Guest Speaker** – George L. Richards, III, Esq., South Natick Law for 200 Pond Road Senior Housing Proposal
 - a) George Richards is a resident and lawyer in Natick for over 30 years. Natick Master Plan 2030 has a goal to support seniors to have living options in Natick as they age and add assisted living in geographically appropriate places. Building for the proposal would be in Natick off of Wellesley Pond Road. Asking Natick town meeting to add a Natick Overlay Loop allowing for Assisted Living. Land in Natick already cleared so would build there and leave trees on way through Wellesley into Natick. Not visible from East Central Street. Planning Board and then Finance Committee in the coming week. Balfour Senior Living (Carrie Gray) selected as operator. HYM developer, Kristopher Yetman, keep treed buffer, 96 assisted living and 34 memory support units with parking under the building. Assisted Living is mix of studio, 1 and 2 bedroom units. Memory care are studios. Questions email to: info@200pondroad.com. Website: 200pondroad.com
 - b) Cost of care is hard to predict with 3 years until developed. It is a rental and does not require a large upfront payment from residents. Driveway is 170' off of 135 and concern expressed on how narrow Pond Road is. Looking to offer 24x7 nursing care. Working with Wellesley for fall town meeting regarding the zoning in Wellesley. Independent living off of Union will have an affordability component. Working to figure out a local preference option. Concern raised whether the project survives the planning process; several projects have been sold after planning. Ken Littlefield developer from Wellpower. \$100+ million project. Continuing Care community need more land and

around 300 units to enable. Can offer adult daycare, provide meeting spaces and/or support groups and lecture series.

3) **Chair's Report-** Judy Sabol

- a) COA Board Vacancy – Paula Panchuk, who attended last month, has indicated some interest but has not applied yet. 1 more board vacancy in June.
- b) Natick Housing Developments for Seniors
 - a. TrueLife Communities is providing some middle/affordability options in the area.
 - b. 5 Auburn is planning to vote on parcel on Wednesday at 6:10pm. Received support for affordable housing options.
- c) Judy looking for volunteers to be part of Nominating Committee. Please let her know if anyone is interested.
- d) Open Meeting Law over Zoom is expiring at the end of this month. House of Representatives have approved an extension through 2025 and the bill is now with the Senate. Can consider a hybrid. State Senator is Karen Spilka.

4) Other – **Deputy Director's Report** – Lorraine McNally

- a) Staff Updates – Debbie Budd is the Assistant Director Services and Outreach. Hiring a second admin assistant – Katie Carew starts Wednesday. Two positions are open reporting to Debbie. Volunteer manager position is being defined.
- b) Program & Services Updates – Memory Café starts Thursday with 8 folks signed up to attend. Mothers Day Brunch being planned for May 11 with entertainment. Pickleball workgroup met once and planning another meeting in April. Muscle Building and Chair Yoga are very full. Lorraine asked instructors to help provide a second session of both.
- c) Strategic Plan: Volunteers – On hold until develop Volunteer Manager position.
- d) Other – State Ethics online training is coming up for all staff and volunteers are expected to complete. Takes about an hour. Link will be provided.

5) **Subcommittee and Work Group update**

- a) Housing Subcommittee Update—Sue Peters – Housing has a meeting on March 15. Susan Ramsey has contacted Wellesley and Framingham to learn about ADU programs but has not received feedback yet.
- b) Pickleball Workgroup – 2pm today had 32 people which is light; 40 last Wednesday. Would like more play time. Trying to extend playing time for current sessions. Everyone must register and fill out senior center waiver. Put a resource by door to ensure people checkin.

6) **Liaison Reports**

- a) Friends of the Natick Senior Center—Karen Oakley – Friends met on February 14 and next on March 21. Gift Shop slower in January and hope to extend hours. St Patrick's Day luncheon at Sons of Italy and all reservations filled. Anthology providing entertainment. Lorraine provided a list of opportunities – Voted no to support Memory Café; Mother's Day Breakfast voted No unless a Natick Restaurant; Re-do outside Garden Beds voted no; New TV in Great Room was approved.
- b) Springwell Elder Services—Harriet Merkowitz, Sue Peters – February 22 meeting and financials are good; LBGTQ+ presentation; dropping Veterans program but have been moved to another program Meals on Wheels now providing alert and thank you for volunteers. Getting better at coordinating the drivers.

- c) Disability Commission – Sue Peters – Three liaisons from Natick High School and developing a website.
- 7) **Board Concerns**—
 - a) Very few Natick restaurants cater breakfast which is why Sudbury vendor was considered.
 - b) Anthology is doing an open house on site for Saint Patrick’s Day. Still Pending state approval to open.
- 8) **Deputy Director Concerns** – Emergency Center hours and what happens after hours was asked at last meeting. Deemed Emergency Center is determined by Board of Health and staffed by them. Very few people have taken advantage of heating and cooling center.
- 9) **Secretary’s Report**—Minutes of February 13, 2023, were reviewed. Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes as amended; Sue Peters seconded. The motion passed (9-0-0).
- 10) Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Sue Peters seconded. The motion carried (9-0-0). Chair Judy Sabol declared the meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Pitt, Secretary