

**Town of Natick
Council on Aging Board Committee
Monday, June 10, 2024**

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Saul Beaumont; Alan Blevins; Elaina Danahy; Linda Jaffe; Fonda Mangino; Harriet Merkowitz; Paula Panchuck; Connie Pitt; Judy Sabol; Mal Sockol

Board Members Absent: Sue Peters

Associate Members: Sal Pandolfo

COA Staff: Kathy Gross, Acting Deputy Director, Community Services – Council on Aging and Human Services

Guest Speaker: Dennis DiGloria, Acting Executive Director, Anthology Natick; Susan Moore, Director, Sales & Marketing, Anthology

Chair Elaina Danahy opened the meeting at 7:01 pm and welcomed board members and staff.

- 1) **Public Concerns**— Frank Lam passed away last week. A motion was made for a moment of silence. It passed unanimously and a moment of silence was made in Frank’s honor.
- 2) **Guest Speaker** - Dennis DiGloria, Acting Executive Director, Anthology Natick
 - a) Dennis DiGloria spoke regarding Assisted Living Residence (ALR) in Massachusetts. 62 ALR and 24 of Memory Care units in Natick Anthology. Dennis provided a checklist for reviewing potential ALR and then reviewed the process and services available through an Assisted Living Residence.
 - b) Susan Moore reviewed the specifics of current Natick Anthology facility and services. Goal is to provide the best environment for a resident over 62 to thrive. Proximity to Natick Senior Center is a draw.
 - c) Anthology owns the property and as of July 1, LCB, the Residences of Natick will be the operator and is a local provider with 17 facilities in Massachusetts. The staff will not change.
 - d) Current census is 48 residents in 39 apartments. Closing in on 50% residency with 5 move-ins this week.
 - e) Hold a Friday night Chabat and Sunday ecumenical program plus spiritual holiday driven special events.
- 3) **Chair’s Report**- Elaina Danahy
 - a) Membership – Three positions open as of June 30 when Sue Peters, Connie Pitt and Judy Sabol complete their 6 years of membership. Harriet Merkowitz is moving and resigned effective with tonight’s meeting. Sal Pandolfo is applying to be a full member again. Therefore, three openings are anticipated as of July 1. Add something to the newsletter/email distribution to advertise/recruit volunteers.

- b) Guest Speakers for future meetings – Town Administrators, Susan Ramsey provide a presentation in August on COA.
 - c) Latest Rules of Governance will be distributed to all members.
- 4) **Deputy Director’s Report** – Kathy Gross
- a) Staff Updates – Susan Ramsey’s last day is August 6. Mal made a motion that the August meeting will be an orientation style meeting. Fonda seconded the motion. Passed unanimously (9-0-1). Consider a farewell event combined with the orientation session for Susan on August 5. Final round of interviews week of June 17 so hiring Susan’s replacement is progressing. New admin starts Wednesday, Tia Hoff.
 - b) Programs & Services Update – July/August newsletter should go to printer on Monday. Introducing a Summer BBQ and Rummy Cube.
 - c) As a follow up to the “Are You Ok” program question at the May meeting, Kathy reviewed with Deb Budd the history and potential for such a program. Saul Beaumont asked about a county led program in Norfolk county. Could Middlesex County offer such a program? Kathy will follow-up with the Middlesex County Sheriff’s Office.
 - d) Legislation filed to change EOE name to Executive Office of Aging and Independence.
- 5) **Subcommittee and Work Group**
- a) Governance Committee – Harriet Merkowitz – Met to review and voted to have the Laws of Governance remain without changes.
 - b) Nominating Committee - Judy Sabol – Elaina, Mal and Judy have a slate of candidates to be presented at the August meeting.
 - c) Pickleball Work Group – Mal Sockol – Going very well. Did have an injury on Friday. The Pickleball Work Group will not continue to report monthly unless something changes.
- 6) **Liaison Reports**
- a) Friends of the Natick Senior Center – Lunch on June 12 in the Great Room is being moved to the Italian Center. Kathy Gross is checking on the use of the Senior Center for the Friends events and whether they must be through the rental program.
 - b) Springwell Elder Services—Harriet Merkowitz – Harriet reviewed the Springwell May meeting summary. Recruiting volunteer drivers for Meals on Wheels with an event in July. Springwell is recruiting new board members and Harriet recommends it as a great learning experience.
- 7) **Board Concerns**— Elaina thanked Mal for running the May meeting. Harriet thanked the board members past and present for their support after many years of membership on the COA. Saul noted State Housing Committee supported ADUs. State legislation that all single family residences could have one ADU of no more than 900 sq ft. Judy Sabol asked to be appointed as an associate member at the August meeting. Fonda asked for a short description of the commitment as a Board member. Kathy Gross will check if there is a brochure.
- 8) **Deputy Director Concerns** – none
- 9) **Secretary’s Report**—Minutes of May 13, 2024 were reviewed. Alan made a motion to approve the minutes; Mal seconded. The motion passed (10-0-0).

10) Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Judy Sabol seconded. The motion carried (10-0-0). Elaina Danahy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:46 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Pitt, Secretary