

**Town of Natick
Council on Aging Board Committee
Monday, August 14, 2023**

Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: Saul Beaumont; Elaina Danahy; Linda Jaffe; Harriet Merkowitz; Karen Oakley; Connie Pitt; Mal Sockol

Board Members Absent: Sue Peters; Judy Sabol

Associate Members Present: Sal Pandolfo

Guest Speaker – Grace O’Donnell, Volunteer Services Program Manager

Public: Alan Blevins, Paula Panchuck

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

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

- 1) **Public Concerns**— Paula Panchuck and Alan Blevins have applied to be COA Board Members and will be reviewed at the Select Board meeting at the end of the month.
- 2) **Guest Speaker:** Grace O’Donnell, Volunteer Services Program Manager
 - a) Request for help on Natick Days. 9-11, 11-1, 1-2 to sell tickets and a couple of BOA Board Members to provide information on the COA Board. Please email Grace at: godonnell@natickma.org, or Grace is at the Senior Center, extension: 1917
 - b) Natick Community Organic Farm on September 16, is seeking volunteers for 2 hours blocks of time. Contact Emily@natickfarm.org . It was noted that September 16 is Jewish New Year.
 - c) Due to technical issues would like to have Grace back to have a discussion on the overall role of Volunteer Services across Community Services and plans to log volunteer hours. Grace will attend the next meeting.
- 3) **Chair’s Report-** Elaina Danahy, Vice Chair
 - a) COA Board Vacancy/Membership – We will be full board membership of 11 when Alan Blevins and Paula Panchuk are approved at the end of August Select Board.
- 4) Other – **Deputy Director’s Report** – Lorraine McNally
 - a) Staff Updates – Serena Roberts left to return to college. Interviewing for a replacement. Joan O’Dell started as Case Manager working for Debbie Budd. Has worked in housing services in Natick recently. Looking for Building Monitors who are in the building evenings and weekends to cover for rentals; assist anyone onsite and lock-up the building at the end of the night. A great part time job for retirees or college students. Contact Lorraine McNally for more information.
 - b) Program & Services Updates – September/October newsletter just went to the printer. Expanding offerings in evening. Watercolor and Mind & Body exercise classes added

during day. Powerful Tools for Caregivers class will be held this fall and available online. Debbie Budd is working to expand caregiver support groups. Open Enrollment for Shine starts again from October 15 – December 7.

- c) Other - Natick Days is on September 9. Would appreciate any help between 10am-3pm from Board Members. Contact Grace if you are able to help.

5) **Subcommittee and Work Group update**

- a) Nominating Subcommittee —Elaina Danahy – Slate of candidates for the September meeting: Elaina Danahy for Chair, Mal Sockol for Vice Chair, Connie Pitt for Secretary.
- b) Pickleball Workgroup – Mal Sockol - Beginners class will be increased to 2 hours starting August 25. Will continue through November 10 on Fridays from 12:15pm – 2:15pm.

6) **Liaison Reports**

- a) Friends of the Natick Senior Center—Karen Oakley – Friends met on August 8. Gift Shop did really well in July and made over \$600 so far this year. Not expanding hours. Hawaiian luncheon was very popular and had a good time. Bingo started again today. Bingo will be on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. Considering whether will have a car show again. Friends has annual meeting scheduled for September 12. Friends have a Facebook page too.
- b) Springwell Elder Services—Harriet Merkowitz – Met on July 28. Request for \$8900 for senior transportation funding in Natick has been approved.

7) **Board Concerns—**

- a) Sal would like an org chart of the department since a number of positions have changed. COA Board members would like to meet the new staff members.
- b) Judy and Mal have been concerned about the lack of strong air conditioning in the gym. Lorraine noted that she has been working with the facilities department on the issue. Fans have been added but the gym is a very large space. Can the COA Board help escalate the issue; Bill Spratt is the head of Facilities. New facilities person, Andy, has been to the building to learn about the problem especially with the Gym and Great Room. Lorraine will find out the next steps. Consider whether a sub-committee/work group would be a good idea. Any resident can raise the problem at Select Board in Citizen’s Concerns.
- c) Mal noted that Debbie Budd has been running the monthly memory café. 5-10 couples usually attend with lunch, and musical entertainment that is very well received.

8) **Deputy Director Concerns – none**

- 9) **Secretary’s Report—**Minutes of June 12, 2023, were reviewed. Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to approve the minutes; Linda Jaffe seconded. The motion passed (7-0-0).

- 10) Harriet Merkowitz made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Linda Jaffe seconded. The motion carried (7-0-0). Elaina Danahy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Connie Pitt, Secretary