

Swampscott Council on Aging Board Meeting

Minutes April 12, 2022

In Attendance:

Maureen Callahan, Marilyn Cassidy, Barbara DiPietro, Jenn Nisbet, Marie Yannaco-Grant and Heidi Whear.
Robert Powell on ZOOM.

Meeting called to order by Marilyn Cassidy at 9:05 AM.

Minutes of February 8, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Approval moved by Marilyn Cassidy, seconded by Barbara DiPietro. Unanimously approved.

Minutes of March 15, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Approval moved by Marilyn Cassidy, seconded by Barbara DiPietro. Unanimously approved.

1. Trainings:

- Staff of the center will be participating in a number of trainings.
- Friday, April 29th, will be an all day training and the center will remain open. This training will include CPR and First Aid.
- May 4th will be the Alice Training for staff. This training will address the issue of active shooters.

2. Kitchen:

- Currently the cooking is being done in collaboration with the high school.
- Meals are provided on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- Service from the high school charges \$4.50/per meal. Participants are charged \$3.00/per meal. Center absorbs the difference.
- We are not sure that this is a viable long-term solution.
- Upgrade for the kitchen is in the Town Budget; \$100,000 was requested. This budget request will also provide for a part time cook.

3. COA Promotion Grant:

- Two companies are being explored for the development/printing of the resource guide.
- Staff continue to brainstorm ideas for the website.
- Center will be closed the morning of April 26th due to the Town Election; staff will be working on the Resource Guide and website at that time. Regular programming resumes at noon.

4. Resource Room:

- Room will be available for a wide range of services.
- Some of the options being discussed are: Public Health RN to come a few hours a week, Hair Stylist, Podiatry, Blood Pressure checks and more options are in development.

5. Transportation:

- There is a new per diem driver that everyone is pleased with and appears to be working out.
- On some days, all three vans are on the road.
- Medical Appointments are being provided for three days per week.
- Shopping Appointments are being provided for two days per week.
- Exploring grants to be able to drive the “loop” and pick up participants interested in coming to the Center.
- Scheduled Trips: Encore, Restaurants, Danversport Yacht Club Shows and Men’s Club Luncheons.

6. Swampscott for All Ages:

- Reconfiguration of the committee is in process.
- Request has been made to the Select Board to be on the agenda.
- Committee hopes to reduce the size to 12-13 members so a quorum will be easier to reach.
- Seaglass Village:
 - Grant in place to make scholarships available.
 - Reporter from the GLOBE wants to interview because Seaglass was the only village to launch during COVID.
 - Currently, 81 members and 40 volunteers.
 - At this time looking for sponsors and vendors.

7. Age and Dementia Friendly Businesses:

- Committee is developing criteria to assess businesses for things like signage and lighting.
- Committee offering trainings.
- Exploring the use of decals for windows of businesses.
- Website being developed.

8. Re-Branding Discussion:

- How does the Center become more multi-generational?
- How does the Center attract younger people who are aging?
- Is it possible to evolve from a Senior Center to a Community Center?
- How do we re-frame “aging”? The words we use speak to the issue.
- Mission Statement has words that speak to the aging population vs. a community program.
- Heidi to send out an email to the board members asking for suggestions on the Mission Statement. Looking for Positive Aging verbiage.

NEXT MEETING: May 10, 2022 @ 9:00 at the Senior Center.

Meeting Adjourned:

Marilyn Cassidy moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:55AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Yannaco-Grant