

Swampscott Council on Aging Board Meeting

Minutes June 14, 2022

In Attendance:

Barbara DiPietro, Marilyn Callahan, Marilyn Cassidy, Deb Newman, Marie Yannaco-Grant and Heidi Whear in person.

Guests on ZOOM: Mary Ellen Fletcher, Select Person and Magella Cantara, reporter from Lynn Item.

Meeting called to order by Marilyn Cassidy at 9:00 AM.

Minutes of May 10, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Heidi asked for comments; Deb Newman clarified that her comment to reach out to local restaurants was to support the work being done in the kitchen. Approval with change was moved by Barbara DiPietro, seconded by Deb Newman. Unanimously approved.

1. Board Development and Term Limits:
 - Swampscott Clerks Office to clarify term limits.
 - One open seat at this time.
 - Need at this time to reach out for volunteers.
 - Articles asking for volunteers will appear in the Swampscott Reporter and the Lynn Item.
2. Welcome Mary Ellen Fletcher as Select Board Representative to COA.
 - Mary Ellen identified her role as liaison from the Select Board.
 - Mary Ellen stated she was a strong advocate for the COA and would help in any way possible.
 - Mary Ellen encouraged the board to reach out to her when there are issues we think she might be able to help with.
3. Dining Update:
 - Town Meeting is tonight, June 14, 2022, for the vote for the funds to update the kitchen.
 - Meals are currently being provided through a collaboration with the High School on Tuesday and Wednesday.
 - Two volunteers will be cooking the meals when school comes to a close.
 - 12-15 are being served lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday.
 - Unfortunately, due to the cost of food, lunches will be going from \$3.00 to \$4.00 per meal.
4. Transportation:
 - Currently there are three vans owned by the COA.
 - The oldest van, purchased in 2008, is currently not in service due to a transmission replacement. Electric car, which is a town owned car, is being used on a temporary basis.
 - Largest van was used to transport interested participants to the Farmer's Market, for the first time, on the opening date. Board noted that there is a need to have additional safe

seating for seniors that are in attendance. Heidi is exploring the possibility of donating one of the COA's benches to the Farmer's Market lawn.

5. Talk About Town:

- Successful, well attended, program addressing GLBTQ issues.
- Presenters were James Giessler the Executive Director of NAGLY (North Shore Alliance of GLBTQ Youth) and three students from Swampscott High School.
- Reporter from CBS was in attendance and provided coverage on the evening news.
- Segment is available to watch on Twitter.

6. Bathroom(s) Upgrades:

- Friends is interested in assisting with the cost of the upgrade to the sinks in the bathrooms.
- Initial bid came in at \$10,000, for the two bathrooms, which is considerably higher than originally expected.
- Exploring the possibility of town funds to assist with facilities improvement.
- Discussion and collaboration on-going.

7. Council on Aging Promotion Grant:

- Website expected to be up by the end of June.
- Staff will be trained to keep the site current.
- There will be a page for board information.

8. Swampscott for All Ages:

- Rebuilding the Board:
 - Board will be 11 members and two ex officio members.
 - Resource guide is a goal of the board.
- Seaglass Village:
 - Board asked about trips being offered by Seaglass Village and why the Senior Center can not/does not offer the same. It was stated that both are working toward better cooperation. This is ongoing and being addressed.
 - Seaglass Village Board is working on how to help low income residents. Board member expressed concern that some seniors can not afford Seaglass Village. This is being addressed and some scholarships are available.

NEXT MEETING: September 13, 2022 @ 9:00 at the Senior Center.

No meeting held in July or August. Board members understand a meeting may be scheduled if there is a need to address any issues of importance.

Meeting Adjourned at 10:00 AM without objection by the chair.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Yannaco-Grant