

Swampscott Council on Aging Board Meeting
Minutes
September 13, 2022

In Attendance:

Barbara DiPietro, Marilyn Cassidy, Deb Newman, Robert Powell, Molly Rowe, Marie Yannaco-Grant and Heidi Whear in person.
Guests on ZOOM: Mary Ellen Fletcher, Select Person and Jen Nisbet.

Meeting called to order by Marilyn Cassidy at 9:06AM.

Minutes of June 14, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Heidi asked for comments; none were made. Approval was moved by Deb Newman, seconded by Barbara DiPietro. Unanimously approved.

1. Board Development and Term Limits:

- Each “term” is for three years.
- One open seat at this time. Interested candidate is Andrea Liftman. Candidate has been forwarded to the Select Board for approval.

2. Dining Update:

- Approximately 15 meals per day are being served, max is 24 meals per day.
- Currently meals are served on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
- Bagels are served every Friday morning.
- Cost is \$5.00/meal, guests pay \$4.00/meal.
- Heidi is applying for ARPA funding to increase meals to five days a week.

3. Program Update:

- Heidi distributed a draft version of the Annual Report for review by the board.
- Hair salon provided by Maureen Callahan is a huge success and guests are pleased with the service.
- Outreach efforts are underway and over 200 people have been contacted to date.
- Website is being worked on and COA Board will be included. Board was asked to submit a picture and a few lines of background information.
- Tech Ninja to be starting again soon.
- Naomi Dreeben is currently in discussion with Heidi to develop a “social day” opportunity for elders who would benefit from the socialization. The goal is to have this program be self sustaining.
- Under discussion is, how to reach out to the Town’s two Senior Housing Complex’s to make accessibility to the Senior Center more feasible. Is transportation an issue? Would a promotional video help?

4. Transportation:

- A new electric vehicle is being researched for purchase for the Senior Center.
- Guests who ride the vans are expected to wear masks, but this has not been enforced. This will be addressed.
- To date 1,027 rides have been provided to 79 individuals.
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday medical rides are provided.

- It is possible the budgeted amount for rides will be surpassed this year.
- Under discussion is the request by Nahant and Machon to borrow the vans.
- Heidi is applying for ARPA Funds to supplement transportation costs.

5. Talk About Town:

- High School Students are currently developing this year's programs.
- It was reported that the students continue to be enthusiastic about the program.
- Students are expected to provide at least one program/month.

6. Social Work Interns:

- This year there will be two students, a BSW and a MSW student. Students are Joelle (Tuesday and Thursday) and Olivia (Thursday and Friday)
- Both students are from Salem State University.

7. Website Review:

- Major and on-going changes will be highlighted.
- Some of the topics being featured are the Senior Center and Activities offered, Transportation, Resources, Swampscott for All Ages and information on "Active Aging".

8. Swampscott for All Ages:

- Seaglass Village:
 - Currently, there are 90 members, 60 volunteers and volunteers have provided 107 rides.
 - Scholarships are available.
- Reimagining Retirement Party:
 - September 14th, 5:30-7:00.
 - Two town administrators to speak, one from Swampscott and one from Nahant.
- Farmers Market - Happy to Chat Benches.
 - Currently in place and positive reviews.
- Housing Domain
 - Addressing issues of Affordable Housing.
 - Series of Panel Discussions on Cable TV.
 - Housing Development Plan available.

9. New Business:

- Heidi has been asked to speak at the Massachusetts Council on Aging Meeting in Falmouth. She will be addressing the relationship between the Council on Aging in Swampscott and Seaglass Village. Heidi will be reporting on shared programming and shared referrals.

NEXT MEETING: October 11, 2022 @ 9:00 at the Senior Center.

Motion to Adjourn by Robert Powell, seconded by Marilyn Cassidy. It was approved and the meeting adjourned at 10:01 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marie Yannaco-Grant