

**Council on Aging
Board Meeting Minutes
August 3, 2022**

Presented by:

Arlene O'Reilly

Members Present: Mary Anne Easley, Chair, Alison Forsgren, Robert Kucharavy, Kendra Lockley, Arlene O'Reilly, Judith Perkins, Nancy Swain, & Linda Williams

Staff Present: Jerico Mele

Meeting called to order 1:29 pm remotely online pursuant to chapter 20 of the acts of 2021. This meeting was ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is reputed by law this meeting will not feature public comment. Please note this meeting is being recorded and that all attendees are participating by video conference and available on the town's website.

1. Approve the Agenda, Bob made the motion and Allison seconded it. All voted yes.

2. Reading of the Minutes:

Approval of two sets of minutes for June and July. Mary Anne will review the May minutes to create it. July minutes was approved, thank you Arlene. All approved.

3. Election of Officers: Reviewed requirements of Secretary, no requirement. But decided to keep positions. Linda nominated Mary Anne as Chair, multiple seconds, nomination was closed. All voted yay. Vice Chair, Allison nominated Robert, he accepted. No other nominations. All voted yay. Secretary role much review of need and discussion. Allison nominated Arlene, closed position, all voted yay.

4) Health Fair: Mary Anne gave brief of history, and it is coming back this coming fall. Brief of health fear committee, October 22, 10am-2pm. And reviewed plans contingent upon COVID. Arlene was asked to join the committee since the hospital lost their communications person. Arlene accepted. Shay Maguire and Mary Anne created a senior services brochure, translated in Spanish and Portuguese. This should be available on Salt Marsh website as well and possible the SM newsletter.

The hospital will do 90% of the work, COA can make suggestions of participants for both or tables. Allison & Arlene will review past activity on health resources and help bring forth options for the Health Fair committee to consider.

5) Memory Cafe: Allison, Jerico, Brian and Mary Anne met with community school Director of Operations. CS can't apply for grant, discussion between Jerico and Allison about options. Contract Review Committee is an option to apply for a grant to help fund this. Applying this fall, would potentially get funds in 2023. Jerico was active in exploring the options that could apply, such as NCEA could apply for CRC grant, reviewed the matrix of what can and cannot work. Still seeking other options.

Allison mentioned NAMI as consideration as a pass through to the community school. Jerico stated a memorandum would be required. Mary Anne suggested CFN, Jerico will bring this up to Margaretta in his upcoming meeting and suggested Allison should follow up with CFN as well.

Allison has been meeting with varied people to ID a facilitator, hard to find. Considering tasks could be parceled up to make it work. Reviewed all tasks and hours that this role would have. 20.5 hours per month. Narrowed down on hosting and planning. Considering outsourcing some tasks and looking to ID hourly rate for a qualified person. Perhaps NCEA could help form a subcommittee to find this person.

Allison and Mary Anne looking to define a budget. Allison and Mary Anne will approach NCEA and Allison and Jerico will approach CFN.

6) Government Update: Jerico reported recent wastewater tests imply 30-35 cases a day for COVID. No hospitalizations or medevac due to COVID, anticipating spike in the fall. Should be getting new boosters in the fall. Clinics will be lined up.

Behavioral Health Initiative, we are working with CFN. This is split between youth focus and crisis response, working to parallel with CFN elder focus. Will update after upcoming meetings.

Reviewed definition of seniors in crisis and communication options around this. Linda questions if the island has cooling centers and highlighted problem with seniors dealing with extreme heat waves. What else is being done? Jerico stated this is a concern going forward, but there is nothing in place at this time. Dialog continued around deaths around the country, and on elderly safety will be focused on this over the next 5 years. Important to define emergency protocol's now, Jerico will reach out to Fire Dept and Generation Safe and report back in September's meeting.

7) Saltmarsh report: Laura Stewart is not here today, she sent a report for us to review. Please email her with any questions.

8) Elder Services on Cape Cod: Allison stated no reports, they take off the month of July. Next meeting will be August 26, will report to us at next months meeting.

9) Grants: Mary Anne stated the home modifications grant is temporarily stalled. Steve Maylou is the handyman needed time off from heat exhaustion, he is a senior himself and retired. They will regroup later in August to install hand bars to senior that need them. Seeking second person.

NCEA has a new president John Copenhaver. He is very active in the Salt Marsh. Salt Marsh is actively working on outreach from the grant they received from the Land Mark House for social activities. Reviewed activities going back to June and future events at the Salt Marsh, funds are tight from renovations. There will be a major event every month.

Reached out to Sherri Hunt at Elder Services to see if we can assist with food delivery for Meals on Wheels and serving lunches at Saltmarsh, she does need volunteers. Further discussions on details of when, where and how much time is needed.

Open for any other questions or comments.

Bob stated to adjourn the meeting. Linda seconded it. All in favor.