

The Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
May 25, 2023

Board members present – Cheryl Moreci, chair, Dan Malloy, secretary, Bob Casali, Dave Guglielmi, Julia Manning, Eileen Milaszewski, Arlene Williams. Absent - Charles Duczakowski, Karen Kuligowski.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM.

Minutes – The minutes from October and November 2022, and February, March and April, 2023 were approved.

Override – The results of the successful override vote was discussed. Director Carole Mullen has reached out to all who she had contacted before the vote to thank them for their support. During the meeting she also thanked Julia Manning for all the work she and her daughter Claire had done on the infographic that was distributed to inform about the programs and the work done by the Council on Aging.

Budget – An increase in the formula grant will result in the department receiving between \$7,000 and \$10,00 more than last year, in addition to what we will get in October from the state. No decision has been yet made as to that number. It could be as much as \$22,000,

At outreach worker Nancy Mosher's request, her hours will go from 22 to 16, starting in July. Some discussion and more budget information will be needed before hiring anyone.

Strategic plan – The director encouraged the Board to continue work on the strategic plan for the next five years.

Medicare – Bob Casali raised the matter of holding a "Medicare 101" program this summer. A date for it will be selected later.

Summer programs – Programs being planned for July and August include exercise, photography, and Facebook. Since instructors are expensive, the cost to those taking the classes will have to go up a little. There is no line item in the budget for this. The only funding for them beyond what participants pay is from the Friends of Elders.

Transportation – The director plans to apply for a grant of \$6,000 to cover our payment for transportation to Milford. Medical transportation is at its highest level ever. By the middle of the month, 40 trips had been made. Most of them have been for physical therapy. The director plans to talk to MWRTA suggesting a pilot program of a route with one or two runs a day from Hopedale to Milford Hospital, Dana-Farber, Shaw's, Target, and Kohl's.

Vaccination clinics – Following a discussion of flu and tetanus vaccinations, Bob moved for plans to be made to hold a tetanus vaccination clinic. The motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

Barbecue – The annual barbecue will be held on June 22.

Community House – On June 24 the Community House will be having a large event to celebrate the 100th anniversary of it's opening. Arlene inquired about the possibility of us doing something at the event to thank the Community House for what they do for us. After some discussion, she moved to explore the option of finding a suitable thank you gift. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Taxes – The director brought up the matter of tax abatements, and the tax circuit breaker, and said that the department can help people with such matters. She also mentioned the possibility joining with the assessors to talk to the select board about that. In addition, she said she'd like to get five additional positions in the tax credit program.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Malloy, secretary