

North Reading Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 25, 2022
Zoom Meeting

Meeting called to order at 1800 by Dan Greenberg

Present: Daniel Greenberg, chair, Katherine McCabe Scott, board member, Rich Wallner (Select Board liaison), Angela Mauceri (Friends of COA liaison), Kathy Sumner (MVES staff), Andrea Gladu (board member), Lil Hartman (Director of Public Services) and Margie Salt (resident)

Introductions

Lil provided an update that Kim Manzelli has been named the new Director of Elder Services with a planned start date of November 14, 2022. Youth Services Director hiring process is ongoing.

Lil gave an update on programming.

Meals -The plan is to bring hot meals to the Senior Center beginning on Tuesday, November 1 as well as cold meals on Wednesdays that can be consumed on site or taken to go. MVES requires that to provide on-site delivery, at least ten or greater meals must be consumed. Kathy confirmed that the current count of hot meals varies between 17-24.

October - December Newsletter - The newsletter mailing to all town citizens age 60+ was just sent to printer and should be mailed shortly.

Halloween Party – Thursday, 10/27/22 to be held at the Senior Center will feature a hot meal, magician for entertainment and optional costume dress up.

Old Business:

Status of new COA members?

Lil - any updates on Citizen Activity Forms from TA? This topic was overlooked at meeting.

Andrea and Dan terms expire at the end of December 2022 and both would like to be reappointed

Need elections of officers after reappointments. Not sure what month the elections will occur.

New Business:

Discussion about possible rebranding of name "Council on Aging" to a name that is inclusive and remove the stereotype of solely serving "seniors" which to some may seem to be ageist. The COA needs to work on the development of a mission statement. Discussion of activities to engage with age friendly programs already established within the town such as Garden Club, Parks and Recreation and library that can appeal to a larger demographic of citizens and provide enrichment (educational) programs.

An interesting statistic was that our greater than 60+ population totals approximately 4000 people but we only service less than 5% of this group with our programs. The senior population is similar in size to the school aged group but has much less exposure and expenditures. The goal of our committee is to provide citizens the opportunity to lead a life of purpose and meaningful existence.

Transportation and Grants –

Dan was very successful in the acquisition of another town van that will provide transportation for up to 6 individuals thru a MVRTA grant. He is also working on coordinating with MVES and MVRTA about other possible grants that the town may be eligible for procuring. Lil also mentioned that the town also currently has another van, albeit one that may not have a long useful life, but the issue remains on the hiring of a driver.

Rich mentioned at the 11/7/22 Select Board Meeting there will be a request to establish a committee to coordinate the town's various transportation needs.

Adjourn: 18:42 pm

Motion to adjourn was unanimous

Next COA Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 5:30 pm via Zoom

Respectfully submitted:

Andrea Gladu, COA Secretary

