

# **North Reading Council on Aging Meeting Minutes Tuesday, February 21, 2023**

**Attendees:** Daniel Greenberg, Katherine McCabe Scott, Maxine MacPherson, Lisa DiTrapano, Margie Salt, Valerie Schiavone, Larry Brown, Richard Waller, Angela Mauceri

**Meeting called to order by Dan Greenberg**

**Election of officers:**

Chair – Dan Greenberg

Vice Chair – Katherine McCabe Scott

Clerk – Maxine MacPherson

**Minutes from the Last Meeting** – the January 17, 2023 minutes were approved by the Board.

**Director's Report** – no report was given as the Director, Kim Manzelli was not present. However, Dan told the Council that one of the main concerns for the Senior Center staff was providing senior transportation. North Reading is no longer eligible for MVES, Ring and Ride or the MBTA. Staff is still talking with Mystic Valley about rides. In addition they are looking for grants that could provide Uber, lyft or taxi rides until they find a permanent solution. There is one van available but it needs work before it can be used and would only be used within North Reading.

**Friends of the Council on Aging** (Angela Mauceri) This report will now be included at future Council meetings. Currently working on:

- The Town yard sale. The Posters are up explaining how people can participate. They usually get 80 to 83 participants. The sale will be by map as done in the past. Date: April 29.
- Eric Evans did a successful senior program about a downed plane in war time.
- Kim requested new tables for the senior center and they are getting them paid by a donation and the Friends.
- The Friends and the Council have gotten a reduced mail rate for sending out the newsletter
- The annual Tomato Handout will be held again this year
- The Friends will help the senior center get a steam unit insert for a table to keep lunches warm

**Subcommittees** – Dan suggested that the Council breakout into subgroups that work on specific issues.

- Grants – looking into what's available and how to apply for them (Margie and Valerie)
- Programming – work with Kim on development of new programs (Katherine and Lisa)
- Systems and Operations – work with staff to develop ways to bring on volunteers, etc (Maxine and Larry)

Dan will serve as a non-voting member of each subgroup

Angela suggested looking at offering day trips for seniors with some financial help from the Friends.

**Old Business** – Discussed the 5 year old surveys on senior needs in North Reading. The reports, by Tufts and Umass, indicate that many seniors feel there are more services needed especially in the areas of transportation, supermarket availabilities and ambulatory services. These needs will need to be addressed or many residents might move out of town as they become empty nesters.

**New Business** – no new business at their time

**Next meeting** – March 21 at 5:30 on Zoom

**Meeting Adjourned.**

Respectfully submitted,

Maxine MacPherson- Board Member