

**Northampton Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes APPROVED
8/8/19**

At the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton

Present: Kathie Bredin, Gerriann Butler, Ben Capistrant, Robert Dionne, Michael Ford, Casey Fowler, Dennis Helmus, Cynthia Langley, Donna Park, Kathy Pekala Service, Marie Westburg, Jae Casella.

Excused: Jeanne Henry Hoose, Deborah Epstein

Absent:

Call to Order

- Gerriann Butler called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM.

Public Session – One person from the public was present to observe.

Review and approval of minutes from the previous meeting

- A motion was made by Cindy Langley and seconded by Donna Park to approve the 7/11/19 minutes as written. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Announcements: Marie introduced Jae Casella, the new Assistant Director and Volunteer Coordinator, to the Council. Kathy Service mentioned Mary Lastowski's passing and asked if there was a way to commemorate her years of service on the Council and as a volunteer. Many seniors have asked Kathy about this. The chair acknowledged Mary's many years of service as a volunteer and council member and conveyed that no special ceremony or tribute is planned as this is not something we do universally. It was also acknowledged that we will all miss Mary.

Old Business

1. No old business.

New Business

1. No new business.

Director's Report: 1. The tables and chairs outdoors look good. There have been a total of four tables and three umbrellas ordered. 2. A new full time custodian was hired who will work 2-10pm eventually. We have a new staff assistant named Nate. We are almost at full staff. 3. The Conway School of Design conducted a landscape redesign workshop. About 20 people attended to inform choices for the redesign of the rain garden at the back of the property. Plants will be added that are pollinator friendly. They will make the outdoors pollinator friendly. 4. The Farmer's Market is a big success, as is the Cooking Club associated with it. The vegetables are from Crimson & Clover Farm through Grow Food Northampton. There are subsidized and non-subsidized shares. 5. There will be a Shakespeare Workshop in September. 6. A Lesbian drop in discussion group has started. 7. Marie is planning an intergenerational event in collaboration with the schools on a Saturday in October. 8. Marie asked Cindy Langley to speak on the Age & Dementia Friendly Listening session that was held. Cindy said about 50 people of varying ages attended and a lively discussion took place. Some discussion points to consider: How do we bring the younger people who will be making decisions into the discussion? How do we reframe the way we discuss age and aging?

We need to start to look at age & dementia friendly businesses already in place. EARN can help as it asks which businesses hire older adults. Cindy explained that the initiative involves a multi-year planning process. Cities are designated an age & dementia friendly city first and then the work of implementation happens.

Other Business

1. Donna Park mentioned that the trees in the front of the building need to be looked at in the landscape redesign.
2. Donna Park talked about a seamstress who can provide seamstress services. The seamstress does this at Easthampton Senior Center.

Adjournment:

Kathy Service made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Michael Ford seconded it at 4:02 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

- **Next NCOA Council Meeting:** Thursday, September 12th, 2019, at 3:30 at the Northampton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by _____ Linda R. DeMercurio