

**Northampton Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes DRAFT
October 10, 2019**

At the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton

Present: Gerriann Butler, Robert Dionne, Michael Ford, Casey Fowler, Dennis Helmus, Jeanne Henry Hoose, Cynthia Langley, Kathy Pekala Service, Marie Westburg, Jae Casella.

Excused: Donna Park,

Absent: Deborah Epstein

Call to Order

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

Public Session – No one was present.

Review and approval of minutes from the previous meeting

- A motion was made by Cynthia Langley and seconded by Michael Ford to approve the 9/12/19. The minutes were unanimously approved

Announcements: Cynthia Langley distributed copies of AARP Network of Age-Friendly Stats and Communities booklet.

Old Business

- Marie Westburg announced that the Cultural Arts Committee is requesting for people to get involved in programs, activities and initiatives.

New Business

- Dennis reviewed a proposed rebuttal letter regarding the article that was published in the Gazette newspaper, regarding an incident that occurred with the Bridge club at the Senior Center. He explained that not one person can represent the council, and was asking for council approval to submit the letter to the editor of the Gazette. After discussion among the council members about the pros and cons of submitting the letter, Geriann called for an informal vote, the result of which was a unanimous decision not to submit the letter.

Assistant Director's Report:

- We are still recruiting for volunteers. There are openings in Reception, Bistro, Coffee Shop, writers for the Chronicle, transportation, medical drivers, etc.
- Drivers, dispatch, and bistro workers are critical right now.
- There is also an opening for a part time staff assistant if anyone knows someone who may be interested.
- Our custodian covers building use when we are closed.
- Can we put an ad in the Gazette for volunteers?

Director's Report:

- We have a partnership with the Alzheimer's Association for a community sing.
- LGBTQ Rainbow Luncheon is held the last Wednesday of the month.
- There are many YMCA classes being held here.

- On a Saturday in October there will be an intergenerational event with Early Childhood participation.
- The Age Friendly initiative and the EARN program are in place too. EARN received a grant from MCOA this year. They are encouraging businesses to hire older workers.
- The Director is looking at how to sustain a \$3 meal. She is working on fundraising with Elder Vision to keep food costs low. We need more people to register and order the \$7 meals. Maybe we could deliver to City Departments?

- There will be the installation of the new rain garden. Electric assist bikes will be set up near the Gazette. The outdoor seating is set up. We are looking for people to remove plants that are not pollinator friendly.
- The study with the architect is moving forward. The Director will be working on next capital improvement requests.
- In October, there will be an Age Friendly event in Florence. The City received money from AARP for an Age Friendly initiative. Forbes Library received a grant. Forbes offered to be a pilot for an Age Friendly Business.

1. **Other Business**

1. A suggestion was made to put Frances Crowe's photograph out in the lobby as an example of positive aging.
2. Highland Valley is sponsoring "Keys to Aging Well" Expo at the Hadley Farms Meeting House on Tuesday, October 1st from 3:00-4:30pm. It is free and open to the public.

Adjournment:

- Cindy Langley made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Robert Dionne seconded it at 4:47 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

Next NCOA Council Meeting: Thursday, October 10th, 2019, at 3:30 at the Northampton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by _____
Linda R. DeMercurio