

**Northampton Council on Aging**  
**Meeting Minutes APPROVED**  
**1/10/19**

At the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton

**Present:** Gerriann Butler, Casey Fowler, Dennis Helmus, Jeanne Henry Hoose, Cynthia Langley, Mary Lastowski, Bob Montague, Donna Park, Kathy Pekala Service, Jean Petty, Marie Westburg, Kim Park.

**Excused:** Deborah Epstein, Michael Ford, Kathie Bredin

**Absent:** Mark NeJame

- Gerriann Butler called the meeting to order at 3:30 PM.

**Public Session** – No one was present from the public. There were no staff reports given.

**Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

- A motion was made by Dennis Helmus and seconded by Bob Montague, to approve the 12/13/18 minutes as written. The minutes were unanimously approved as written.

**Old Business**

1. **No Old Business was discussed.**

**New Business**

1. **Council Meeting Protocol:** Gerriann Butler read an opening statement which included: NCOA Council Members are the voice of the senior community; when in the community, try to engage those seniors you meet; you may also join in the volunteer community of the senior center; and the need to be an ambassador and serve as a role model of the Code of Conduct. A Guide for Council Members is being developed. An index of this guide was handed out.
2. **Review of new COA Membership Orientation Packet Materials:** Dennis Helmus, Marie Westburg, Gerriann Butler and Kim Park are working on an orientation packet for new Council Members specific to Northampton. An index has been created. Council Members can email their agenda items to Marie or Gerriann. The meeting follows open meeting law. The law will hopefully be ready before the next meeting. Cindy Langley wants time to look it over before the next meeting. Discussion of interest in a schedule of when seasonal items might be put on the agenda like the budget, etc.

3. **Elder Vision and HVES representative roles;** These topics were taken off the agenda and will be put on only when there is something to report. The Council can bring items for the representative to bring to HVES and/or EV. Kathy Service is the Northampton representative to Highland Valley Elder Services. Allan Ouimet is the Director of HVES. HVES strives to have representation from each town that serves on the Board. Allan can come to NCOA meetings if needed. HVES has grant opportunities including Title III funding which the NCOA uses for transportation. A Highland Valley fact sheet was requested by Cindy Langley. Bob Montague is the representative for Elder Vision. He will relay items back from this meeting to the EV board.
4. **Assistant Director's Report: Volunteer Recruitment, Focus Group;** Kim Park said there was an Arts & Culture focus group on Wednesday Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. This is a small group formed to pick movies. There was a

meeting Thursday, Jan 10<sup>th</sup> at 1pm as well. Anyone with expertise or interest in movies, theater, etc., is welcome to attend. The Movie Committee will meet on the last Thursday of the month at 12:30pm. The next

meeting is January 31<sup>st</sup> at 12:30pm. Kim invited Council Members to attend. Kim has two new receptionists, one coffee shop volunteer and one transportation volunteer. She will be recruiting volunteers on February 7<sup>th</sup> at a table in the lobby. The Ukulele Group is filled up. There was a new class added.

5. **Director's Report: Upcoming programs and events, implementation of new code of conduct, TRIAD, Sand for Seniors Program, UMASS Nursing Department, etc.;** 1. Marie is launching many new programs. There will be new classes in the Studio for silk scarf painting and other creative workshops. If you know instructors who want to teach, let Marie know. Information will be in the Chronicle for new programs. 2. Marie implemented the new code of conduct. Cell phone use is only in the foyers or outside. 3. We partnered with TRIAD and Northampton Neighbors to hand out buckets of sand to Northampton residents. It was a very popular program. 4. Students from the UMass nursing program will be back. There are two sets

of nurses – new and advanced. They will hold screenings, review medications, contraindications of medicine, and discuss health issues with seniors. Cooley Dickinson will hold a community health forum to access needs of older adults here on Tuesday, February 26th. Marie should hear soon about the capital improvement funds she requested. She will be working on the budget for next year soon. Marie requested toilets in bathroom to be higher. She wants to put another notch in reception desk so people are greeted and have more access to information. Smith Vocational built the original front desk. What would people like to see here with regards to intergenerational programming if any? In February, the Conz Street Chronicle is focusing on love and chocolate. For Valentine's Day, there will be a concert from the Young @ Heart here followed by a special luncheon. That is the day of the next Council Meeting. Please make your reservations if you would like to attend.

### **Other Business:**

1. No other business was discussed.

### **Adjourning the meeting**

Bob Montague made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mary Lastowski seconded it at 4:23 PM. The motion was unanimously approved.

### **Announcements**

- **Next NCOA Council Meeting:** Thursday, February 14th, 2019, at 3:30 at the Northampton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_  
Linda R. DeMercurio