

**Northampton Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes APPROVED
3/14/19**

At the Northampton Senior Center, 67 Conz Street, Northampton

Present: Gerriann Butler, Kathie Bredin, Deborah Epstein, Dennis Helmus, Jeanne Henry Hoose, Cynthia Langley, Marie Westburg, Kim Park.

Excused: Mary Lastowski, Kathy Pekala Service, Jean Petty, Casey Fowler

Absent: Mark NeJame, Michael Ford, Donna Park

Call to Order

- Gerriann Butler called the meeting to order at 3:37 PM.

Public Session – There were FIVE members of the public here. Two were here for research and there were three from the tap class. The tap class made a presentation and the Council will take it under advisement.

Review and approval of minutes from the previous meeting

- There was not a quorum for a vote, so no vote was taken on the minutes today.

Announcements: Jean Petty resigned from the Council. There is no quorum, so no votes could be taken.

Old Business

1. **Senior Meals and policy about participants under 55:** It was discussed that the Senior Center will have events that are open to the public and/or intergenerational activities. We had one event where families were invited and only one person brought families.
2. **Golden Age Meal Tax Exemption:** Marie said the Treasurer for City has to sign the paperwork.
3. **Increasing COA member visibility, introduction of members through Chronicle articles, mechanisms for public feedback:** Cindy Langley will be working on the questions for the Chronicle. Deadline for Chronicle is the first of the previous month. Questions could include “Why did you join the Council?” “What do you participate in at the Senior Center?” “What are your skills?” “What do you bring to the Council?” The answers will start with the May issue. The copy needs to be in by March 27th to Cindy Langley.

New Business

1. **Council Member involvement and opportunities for volunteering:** Please try to be aware of the ways you can volunteer at the Senior Center. Council Members can check with Kim for various needs. Ideas are needed about what works and what doesn't work.

2. Assistant Director's Report:

1. Volunteer Recruitment: Six new volunteers were added. We need dispatch and Chronicle volunteers. Also we will need volunteers for Elder Vision and fundraising. 2. The Focus Group is making progress and giving feedback. Nine people are on the movie committee and they are picking movies. They look at feedback from those who attend. Arts and Culture Focus Group meetings are on Wednesday April 10th at 2:30pm; May 1st at 11:30am and June 5th at 2:30pm. 4. We will have programming on Historic Northampton. The next focus group will look at welcoming diversity. How we welcome new and existing members. We can do

outreach to bring additional people in. 5. The Volunteer Recognition Luncheon and month are coming up in April. April 10th is the luncheon. Invitations will be sent out.

2. **Director's Report:** Marie is working on the FY20 Budget. The Wage & Classification Study was done. The wood floor was discussed. Can chairs be protected so they don't hurt floor? We are trying to have no street shoes on the wood floor and have fitness activities only in the Activity Room. There was a letter from Sharon Arselanian sent to Mayor, Chair, Vice Chair and Marie. Jeanne wants to make sure that the Council attaches the documents presented by public. She questioned how the Council communicates back. The Council has answered every communication that was sent to them. Staffing changes: Marie is hiring another Media & Marketing Coordinator. Arts Night Out/Cultural Arts Funding: Marie received funding for the Art Salon to come in April to the Senior Center for Arts Night Out. 4-5 artists will be here to talk about their art. Laura Radwell will be displaying her art in the hallway. Western MA pollinators will be here to help us become Pollinator Pathway. An Age Friendly/Dementia Friendly event will be held here April 23rd from 1-3:30 with the Mayor, State Director and AARP. There will be an hour of brainstorming and listening session. They will discuss how to envision Northampton as a place to age well.

Other Business

1. YMCA classes are so big they are in half of the great room. Dance & Sculpt is going well.
2. The pilot for longer hours and Saturday hours is going well. More seniors are using Saturday hours.
3. The sink went into the new Art Studio/Workshop so we can have more art classes.
4. Elder Vision voted to fund the outdoor furniture request of \$5000. People can have lunch outside.

Adjourning the meeting

No vote was taken to adjourn. The meeting ended at 4:35.

- **Next NCOA Council Meeting:** Thursday, April 11th, 2019, at 3:30 at the Northampton Senior Center.
Respectfully submitted by _____

Linda R. DeMercurio