

**Northampton Council on Aging Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 28th, 2022, 3:30 pm**

**COA Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Cynthia Langley called the meeting to order @ 3:38 pm

**Present:** Cynthia Langley, Nancy Yesu, Laura Scott, Michael Ford, Bob Dionne, Gerriann Butler, Jeanne Henry Hoose, & Anne “Val” Romano

**Excused:** Ben Capistrant (resigned) & Carolyn Sandel (excused)

**Public Session:** Brian Steele (Daily Hampshire Gazette Reporter) no comments

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- A motion was made to approve the February minutes by Gerriann Butler and 2nd by Michael Ford. The minutes were unanimously approved

**Announcements:**

- There are currently 6 applicants for the Director’s position. The city has extended the deadline for the search. The search committee is comprised of Alan Wolf, Jim Nash, Kathy Bowler, Meredith O’Leary & Cindy Langley.

**Old Business:**

- The Age & Dementia Friendly Initiative committee includes board members: Carolyn Sandel, Michael Ford & Cindy Langley. They have worked with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and have a draft in place. It may be the end of May before the Mayor sees it. Priorities for the next 12 months are being looked at by the committee.
- No update on the new furniture.

**Nancy Yesu, Program Coordinator's Report:**

- **The attendance at the Center continues to be slower than hoped. We are not sure whether the Dept of Health's vaccine mandate has affected it or not. They have a survey for our patrons to voice their opinions and will use this information to decide whether to keep the mandate.**
- **We are thinking about adding one more meal day each week. The Coffee Shop is open Monday & Wednesday mornings and is staffed by volunteers.**
- **New programs are slowly coming to fruition. We continue to be short staffed, losing one staff assistant in March and another leaving in May. We are hoping to be able to hire a new staff assistant in the near future rather than waiting for the Director's position to be filled first.**
- **Michele Dihlmann & myself continue to be the Mayor's office contacts during the absence of a director. We are both taking on the added responsibilities until a new Director comes on board.**
- **COA vacancy announcement will be put in the next Chronicle.**

**New Business:**

- **The question was raised to ask the Mayor's office whether there needs to be time off between terms for board members.**
- **Jean Henry Hoose mentioned the lack of transportation options for residents especially in regards to West Hatfield appointments. Cindy said she would add this to next month's agenda.**

**Next Meeting:** May 12th, 2022, 3:30 pm, Northampton Senior Center

**Adjournment :** Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Dionne & 2nd by Michael Ford

Meeting adjourned @ 4:22 pm