

Northampton Council on Aging Meeting
Thursday, July 8th, 2021, 3:30 pm, Due to the Covid-19 emergency, this
meeting was conducted via Zoom Video Conferencing

COA Minutes

Call to Order: Cynthia Langley called the meeting to order @ 3:53 pm

Present: Cynthia Langley, Jeanne Henry Hoose, Marie Westburg, Janet Yurko, Nancy Yesu, Laura Scott, Bob Dionne, Gerriann Butler, Aurea Domenech, Michael Ford, Ben Capistrant, & Anne “Val” Romano

Public Session: No public attended

Review and Approval of Minutes: Jeanne Henry Hoose asked that her comment regarding the artist of the month be corrected. A motion was made to accept the minutes with the correction by Gerriann Butler and 2nd by Jeanne Henry Hoose.

Announcements: Michael Ford announced that he has filed the paperwork to be reappointed by the Mayor. He said he would abstain from voting until officially reappointed.

Director’s Report: Marie welcomed Val Romano as a new Council advisory member and the new Assistant Director & Volunteer Coordinator, Janet Yurko. Janet introduced herself by explaining her extensive elder care background, her close ties to Northampton and how excited she is to be part of the Senior Center. Kevin Martin, Nutrition Program Coordinator, started on July 1st and has been busy getting his kitchen in order. Plans are being made as to how best to utilize his skills in the coming months. Unfortunately with the rising costs of food, there will be an increase in the price of meals. Marie will be working to find ways to help those who may not be able to afford the new pricing. The principal clerk & 3 staff assistant positions have been posted and will hopefully be hired soon. Renovations to the lobby are moving forward slowly with new flooring & paint on the agenda. The Friends of Northampton Senior Center are planning fundraising events towards the purchase of new furniture. A very generous donation for \$5000 has already been received towards this endeavor. Friends of Northampton Senior Center will also host a shredding event on July 31st. Council members offered their help for this event. Jeanne Henry Hoose mentioned that it would be too early to have an art exhibit in August, but it would be nice if the next artist of the month could exhibit their work in the Center. Marie agreed that it would

be good to have artwork in the hall again to brighten up the Senior Center. Nancy has contacted group liaisons and approximately 90% want to come back. She assured members that we are working to accommodate all groups in the best way possible. Support groups will also be coming back soon. Beginning August 2nd, 15 min appointments between 9-2 will be scheduled to re register all patrons in our system. We want to welcome each member back personally during this time and look forward to seeing everyone. We are also asking that patrons wishing to use our Fitness Center, fill out the necessary paperwork and then we will schedule a time for orientation. We are planning August as a soft reopening as we train new staff & volunteers. Please watch the Chronicle for more information as we ramp up our programs.

Nominating Committee: A motion was made by Jeanne Henry Hoose to nominate Cynthia Langley as Chair and Robert Dionne as Co Chair. The motion was seconded by Gerriann Butler and the vote was unanimous.

New Business: There was a brief discussion as to whether the board would meet in August. It was decided that with all the upcoming events and reopening, it would be a good idea to meet.

Next Meeting: August 13th, 2021, 3:30 pm, Northampton Senior Center (via Zoom)

Adjournment : Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Dionne, 2nd by Aurea Domenech

Meeting adjourned @ 4:46 pm