

## **Northampton Council on Aging Meeting**

**Thursday, October 13th, 2022, 5:00 pm**

**Virtual:**

**Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83085735202?pwd=SGRmU2EzRzZqTGd4NVk0>**

**QVM1WmQvZz09 Meeting ID: 83085735202 Passcode: 834485**

### **COA Minutes**

**Call to Order:** Robert Dionne called the meeting to order @ 5:02 pm

**Present:** Kim Park, Laura Scott, Jeanne Henry Hoose, Robert Dionne, Gerriann Butler, Michael Ford & Anne “Val” Romano

**Excused:** Carolyn Sandel & Cynthia Langley

**Public Session:** Northampton resident Bruce Fuller came with the following request:

- **Bruce recalled “Snowtober” when people were housed at Smith Vocational due to an early season snow storm. They were aided by the Red Cross, area MRC/Medics & Cooley Dickinson Hospital’s pharmacist (help for those who left home without their necessary medications). He would like to see the Red Cross present a program about “go kits” used for evacuation purposes.**
- **Will the Center bring back the computer tech help that has happened in the past?**
- **Can the Northampton Fire Dept hold a demo on fire escape & proper use of extinguishers in the home?**
- **Can an update be provided on transportation?**

**Review and Approval of Minutes:**

- **A motion was made to approve the September minutes by Val Romano and 2nd by Jean Henry Hoose. The minutes were unanimously approved**

#### **Director's Report:**

- **Kim thanked the fabulous team including staff & volunteers for all their efforts.**
- **Interviews have been held for the Assistant Director position. No further updates at this time.**
- **We are planning on expanding our team of volunteers and would like to open the coffee shop another day per week soon. The goal will be 5 days in the future.**
- **Building: The heat has been switched on! The city is moving forward with the UV coating on the fitness center windows. Some of the windows will need to wait until they are replaced. The new furniture is still estimated to arrive around the beginning of winter but no updates. Other windows in the building will be replaced but the schedule has not yet been determined.**
- **Programs & services: During the month of August, we held 65 orientation meetings with 26 new members & 39 returning members. The Bistro lunches continue to gain momentum: 339 meals-July, 355 meals-August & 387 meals-September. On September 20th, we had close to 200 people in our building for various programs including a talk by Attorney Valerie Vignaux. The author of the month has returned. Cornhole has been gaining traction since debuting October 5th. A new Lunch & Learn series has begun on Fridays in October. October 14th will feature The Office of Consumer Affairs & Business Regulations on Skimming Devices. We will once again hold the Veterans Luncheon on Nov 10th at noon. NFD will be here on November 15th @ 10 am for a Health & Wellness collaboration with us. The Dept of Health & Human Services will hold a flu clinic at the Center on October 20th from 8-11 am. Public Health nurse Elliot Ezcurra will have drop in hours in the Wellness Center on Fridays from 12:30-2:30 to answer questions. The Doozy Do parade was a huge success and a lot of fun. The next Arts Night Out will be October 14th with artist Carolyn Hicks. Three scheduled dates for Coffee with the director: October 24th, November 7th & November 16th in the Coffee Shop. The phone issues have been resolved. Calls can be answered by the front desk eliminating the need to leave voicemails in most cases. The phone tree itself has also been consolidated to 4 options. After discussions with the city solicitor and Mayor, the following changes were made to paperwork required when people sign up to be members of the Senior Center: Participation Waiver to be signed by everyone. The code of conduct is included in our packets but does not need to be signed. Patrons no longer need to submit medical clearance for fitness classes or to use the fitness center. There are no building rentals yet with the exception of the Winter Farmers Market and First Night Out. We will expand services as we can.**
- **Capital Improvement plan due by end of the month. Some ideas: patio off the coffee shop, technology, and new paint for the interior rooms.**

- **The phone notification system through our software comes from a 617 area. This has caused some confusion and major carriers also sometimes block the call as span. Looking for local options for our robo calls.**

**Old & New Business:**

- **There was a question as to what someone might do in case of an emergency in the Fitness Center. There is a phone on the wall and also pull chains in the bathrooms.**
- **Meetings will continue with a start time of 5 pm. The later time might encourage more people to apply to become COA members. Current board members are looking for more diversity around the table. Jeanne mentioned a need to define the role more clearly for new members and thought someone should reach out to a local synagogue for interested parties.**
- **Will we be able to have more musical programs?**

**Next Meeting:** November 10th, 2022, 5:00 pm, Northampton Senior Center

**Adjournment :** Motion to adjourn was made by Val Romano & 2nd by Michael Ford

Meeting adjourned @ 5:51 pm