

Town of Natick
Council on Aging Board Committee
Community-Senior Center, 117 East Central Street
Monday, March 11, 2019, 7:00PM – 9:00PM
Minutes

Board Members in Attendance: William Grome, Chair; Andrew Eschtruth, Vice Chair; Elaine Ostroff, Secretary; Bobbi Ciarfella, Judy Keefe, Harriet Merkwitz, Sal Pandolfo, Sue Peters, Connie Pitt

Board Members Absent: Judy Sabol

Associate Members Present: Karen Oakley

Associate Members Absent: Cari Ryding

COA Staff: Susan Ramsey, Director, Council on Aging

Guests: Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Coordinator, Town of Natick

Representatives from other Boards present: Mary Jane Burgess as representative for Friends of Natick Senior Center

Notes:

1. William Grome, Chair, opened the meeting at 7:02 pm
2. Public Concerns – no members of the public in attendance
3. Guest Speaker: Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Coordinator, Town of Natick – Senior Energy Savings Program
 - a. Partnering with the Council on Aging and volunteers for Senior Energy Grants. 1500 people in Natick had audit last year but only 10% made improvements recommended. Energy concierge volunteers help from setting up audit through actual implementation. Grant funding for seniors, up to \$500 per senior, over and above what Eversource provides. Looking for help to promote program awareness and sign up volunteers.
 - b. Small panel will convene to review applications for grant funds. Request one COA member be included. **Action:** Follow-up with Susan Ramsey.
4. Council on Aging Director, Susan Ramsey
 - a. Natick Sentinel Discussion: Susan starting contract renewal process for 3 year contract effective January 1, 2020 in the next couple of months. Susan reviewed several questions regarding the frequency, content and layout. **Action:** Provide any suggestions to Susan

b. Staffing Update:

- i. Hiring 19 hours per week for the Conversation Project supported by grant from MetroWest Health Foundation to educate on End of Life Conversations before it is a crisis.
- ii. Ken Colon has moved to Shrewsbury COA. Wish him well. Hiring 2 part-time people to replace him.
- iii. Posted clerical position – focus on community pass (admin) and coordinate public relations and marketing.

- c. Other: At Friends of Natick Senior Center meeting, dilemma of understanding COA/Senior Center and Friends. Propose a working group to review roles and responsibilities and come up with language to clarify. Karen Oakley from historical perspective; Harriet Merkwitz to help with language (helped with Lincoln Café charge a couple of years ago). Connie Pitt volunteered. Develop clear language to include in all communication.

5. Chair's Report – William Grome

- a. Vote to amend Rules of Governance relative to appointing executive committee: Bill Grome made a motion to amend Article VII C – Officers to read: The Nominating Committee shall provide all members a list of nominees no later than May 15. Officers of the Board shall be elected at the meeting in June and shall take office at the end of that meeting. Bobbi seconded, Motion failed with 5 in favor, 4 opposed.
- b. Sub-committee appointments: Handout provided. Add Karen Oakley to Strategic Planning. **Action:** Let chairperson know if there are community members to join a sub-committee.
- c. Review of Transportation Committee charge: Change 'an' to 'and', all members agreed.

6. Liaison Reports

- a. Friends of the Natick Community-Senior Center – Judy Keefe: Committee to study the role of COA and Friends of Natick Senior Center supported by the Friends Board. Mary Jane Burgess assigned as liaison to the COA Board.
- b. Commission on Disability – Elaine Ostroff: Developing ADA transition plan. All municipalities are required to have a plan on how they will come into compliance with the ADA. Several parts – facilities, communication, access to programming. Elaine will have more at next meeting.

- c. BayPath Elder Services - Harriet Merkwitz: MA census equity fund for 2020 to increase participation in census. BayPath is looking to partner with COAs to help reach out to seniors to complete census. COA board members are encouraged to apply for funding. Title 3 funding requests for FY2020 due April 20th. BayPath Asst Dir can help provide assistance to request funds.

7. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Rules of Governance – Sal Pandolfo: Minutes provided with agenda. Sal made a motion for the COA to attach to the rules of governance Eight Policy Items to the rules of governance as approved on Feb 12, 2018. Harriet seconded. The motion passed with 8 in favor – 0 against – 1 abstention
- b. Diversity – Carl Ryding: absent
- c. Housing – Bobbi Ciarfella: Met with committee. Propose to have 1) tax assessor present on tax abatement – workoff, loans, etc and 2) separate presentation on reverse mortgages. Discussion on how to plan sessions. COA supports.

8. COA Board Concerns – none noted

9. Director Concerns – Approached by Baypath to apply for funds/grants in support of 2020 Census. Consider transportation committee could put in for transportation grant.

10. Secretary's Report – Minutes of February 11, 2019: item 8 change 'no' to 'none'. Sal made motion to approve as amended, Andrew seconded, minutes unanimously approved.

11. Adjourn – 9pm: Sal made the motion, Andrew seconded, unanimously approved.