

Ayer Council on Aging Board Monthly Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM

Meeting in Person at Senior Center, Pond Street, Ayer

Minutes compiled by Dennis Curran, Chairperson

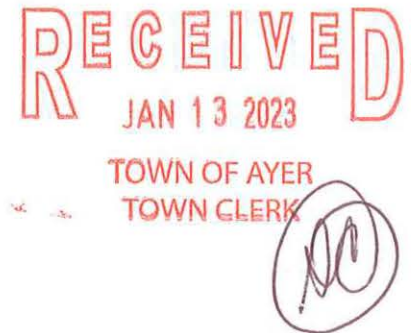
In Attendance:

Katie Petrossi, Senior Center Director

Margie Withee, Board Member

Sister Paula McCrea, Board Member

Dennis Curran, Board Chairperson



Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Public input
3. Approve Minutes
4. Director's monthly Senior Center report
5. Director's monthly town report
6. Update from Building Committee
7. Review Town Day booth 2022 - suggestions for 2023
8. New business
9. Old Business
10. Adjourn

Minutes:

- 1) The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM
- 2) Some members of the public voiced concerns regarding prioritizing Ayer residents for places on the van for special trips. There is a concern that some Ayer residents may be unable to get a spot on the van because out-of-town participants may have signed up first. A lengthy discussion ensued. The fact that this concern has arisen is evidence of increasing participation and a renewed enthusiasm for the services the Center is endeavoring to provide. It was decided that the current policy would remain in effect while the Center works to hire additional staff and acquire a second van. As participation numbers increase the policy will be revisited on an annual basis.
- 3) Approval of prior month's meeting minutes was deferred.
- 4) Director's report was reviewed. Highlights include:

- a. Budget remains on target for the year.
  - b. Number and variety of available programming continues to increase. Participation and enthusiasm for Center activities continues to grow.
  - c. The Director's time continues to be stretched by sharp increases regarding assistance with housing expenses and fuel assistance. Outreach coordinator position has been re-posted. Social Work position has been posted.
  - d. Volunteers and community donations continue to be an integral part of the Center's ability to serve the community.
  - e. The Building Committee continues its work in seeking an appropriate site.
  - f. The hiring of a per diem van driver has allowed service to be expanded to include Fitchburg and Concord.
- 5) In anticipation of the new positions eventually being filled, Katie is working to design the office space to accommodate the new hires. There are clear space constraints that impede any easy answers.
- 6) The Building Committee continues its work. Preliminary discussions are underway with Parks and Recreation. Possible sites at Devens are being looked at. Bureaucratic complexity of dealing with Mass Development was discussed.
- 7) Katie staffed the Town Day booth on Saturday. The weather kept public interest down somewhat, but there continues to be strong interest in the work of the Senior Center.
- 8) Katie mentioned the air conditioning unit will need to be replaced prior to next summer. Typically, this should be the responsibility of the landlord (Ayer Housing Authority).
- 9) A signaling device to alert staff when the front door has been opened is being looked into. The door still requires the use of the handicapped button to be opened.
- 10) Katie recognized that the nutrition coordinator, Denise, has been a very valuable addition to the team. The Center and Ayer's senior community have very much benefited from her having come on board.

Adjourn: 3:30 PM

