



Town Of Ayer Council of Aging
Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 8, 2023 2:00 P.M.
COA Center, 18R Pond Street, Ayer, MA, 01432

In Attendance:

COA Board Chairperson Dennis Curran
COA Board Member Bobby Gardner
COA Board Member Mary Markham
Several members of the public
COA Board Member Marge Withee, Secretary, present by phone

Minutes compiled by Mary Markham and Marge Withee

Absent: COA Board Member Janine Nichipor

Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Approve/amend the agenda
3. Public Input
4. Approve Minutes
5. Director's monthly Senior Center report(Please review prior to meeting)
6. Review of the budget process for the upcoming fiscal year
7. Adjourn

1. Call to order
D.Curran called the meeting to order at 2:10
2. Approve/amend the agenda
B. Gardner made a motion to accept the agenda; M. Markham seconded the motion, and D.Curran, B.Gardner, M. Markham, and M.Withee voted yes. The agenda was approved.

3. Public Input
A member of the public requested for J. Nichipor to withdraw from the COA Board. This person said she and many feel she does not represent the seniors with her position opposing the Community/Senior Center location. Another member of the public said the Board should represent all opinions. A member of the public wants APAC to record the COA Board meetings, and wants a petition to request more COA involvement by APAC. D.Curran said he would discuss with BOS, about APAC, and it was up to the BOS about J.Nichipor, as they had appointed her. We explained the schedule of meetings at Town Hall, and every Board has a monthly meeting. We meet at 2, so elderly can attend, versus night, when APAC is generally available in the Town Hall

meeting room. But, D. Curran will look into what can be done. Comments regarding the recent luncheon trip, and the location was changed last minute due to the site not being available. The public felt the trip should have been cancelled.

4. Approve minutes

July minutes were deferred until September to approve as J. Nichipor had requested amendments be made, and no one had a chance to look at the requested amendments.

5. Director's monthly Senior Center report

Center is fully staffed, with the addition of Brittany, and Mary Ellen. Meals are full, and programs are full. Discussion on whether out of town seniors should be allowed occurred again. There are about 7 Shirley seniors that use the Center, (2 are former Ayer residents who could not get housing in Ayer) and sometimes, go on the trips. This upsets some people, but everyone we serve should have a right to call and attend. Trips are a first come, first serve. It's been that several people sign up for a trip, but do not show up for the trip, leaving empty seats on the bus. This is after receiving the robo-calls regarding the trips. Most are Ayer residents, and several will cancel, if they do, at the last minute, leaving it too late to call anyone else to take the seat on the bus. The policy remains for now open to all seniors. The Senior Center is a social circle, and we engage all seniors for social, and other needs.

6. Review of the Budget Process for the upcoming fiscal year

a) Level Funding : Dollar amount remains the same

b) Level Service: the same level of service, however, costs may increase

c) Items to consider requesting

Van and per diem driver (Carly is advertising for per diem driver)

Paid Instructor

Food Budget

Tablets /IPads for seniors to use

Lunch to 5 days?

Hydroponic Garden

Parking solution, as the lot is full every day.

Can we offer programs at other sites to increase awareness of the Senior Center?

d) Capital Request is separate

7. Adjourn

B. Gardner made a motion to adjourn, and M. Withee seconded the motion. D. Curran, B. Gardner, M. Markham, and M. Withee voted yes. Meeting was adjourned at 3:32 P.M..

Documents used: Director's Report, In/Out of Town User Analysis FY'23,
Senior Center Statistics FY'23



September 15, 2023