

Town of Ayer
Council of Aging Board Meeting
September 12, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.
Ayer Senior Center, 18 Pond Street Rear, Ayer, MA 01432

Minutes compiled by Marge Withee, Secretary COA Board
Meeting in person at the Senior Center, 18R Pond Street, Ayer, MA 01432

Marge

In Attendance

COA Director, Katie Petrossi
COA Board Chairperson Dennis Curran
COA Board Member Bobby Gardner
COA Board Member Mary Markham
COA Board Member Janine Nichipor
COA Board Member Marge Withee
12 members of the public



Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve/amend agenda
3. Approve minutes
4. Director's monthly report (please review prior to meeting)
5. Senior Center Site Selection/Bldg Committee Update
6. COA Representative on the Site Selection/Bldg Committee
7. By-law review
8. Board projects for the year ahead
9. Public Input
10. Adjourn

1. Meeting was **called to order** by Chairperson Dennis Curran at 2:07.

2. Approve/amend agenda

Mary Markham "I make a motion to move public input to the usual place in the meeting, # 3 on the agenda. Bobby Gardner seconded the motion. Votes were: yes: D. Curran, B. Gardner, M. Markham, J. Nichipor, and M. Withee. Motion passed, and agenda was modified.

3. Public Input

- a) J. Nichipor was questioned by a Carolyn McCreary (resident) about her Facebook page, and said her behaviors did not act like a COA Board member representing the seniors of Ayer. J. Nichipor said she had voted no for the site, and would do everything she could to keep open space in Ayer. This resident thought J. Nichipor should resign from the Board.

- b) Barbara Gibbons (resident) said not all COA Board members must act, and feel the same way. She also expressed abutters should be notified if you are planning on building anything near their residence. A member of the COA Board clarified that the Pirone Park plans were not yet developed to the point of abutter notification, as design, soil testing, etc, had not been done yet to determine feasibility.
- c) Nancy Jackvony (resident) presented her findings about senior trips of surrounding towns and said only Ayer allows outside seniors to sign up. COA Director reached out to two of the mentioned towns during the meeting, who indicated that Nancy's survey results were not accurate. D. Curran recalls that this is an ongoing complaint about the 6-8 out-of-town users, and reminded the Board that they agreed to review this policy every 6 months.

4. Director's Monthly Report

- a) Sam Parr celebrated 6 years working for the Town of Ayer. All agree Sam is a blessing.
- b) Programs are growing at the Center, and attendance is up: In August 105 seniors attended a total of 730 times (i.e. the average senior attended 7 times per month).
- c) Mary Ellen and Brittany continue being wonderful additions, and Denise served 329 meals in August.
- d) Public interjection included concern over the immigrants and the state of emergency it will cost the Town of Ayer and the seniors living at the Ayer Motor Inn. A request was also made to have Senator Eldridge host an event or forum for the seniors.

5. Senior Center Site Selection/Building Committee

- a) A representative from the COA Board is needed for the new Senior Center Site Selection and Building Committee. J.Nichpor thought Dennis should be on the committee. B.Gardner "I make a motion to nominate D.Curran for the Bldg Committee as COA representative." M.Markham seconded the motion. Votes: Yes: D.Curran, B. Gardner, M.Markham, J.Nichpor. Abstain: M.Withee.

6. By-law Review

Postponed until October

7. Board Projects for the Year Ahead

Discussion of potential projects included Bylaw updates, branding for the Senior Center, promoting the creation of a Friends of the Ayer Seniors group, a code of conduct for the seniors using the Senior Center.

8.Approve minutes

- a) July 2023: J Nichipor requested additional revisions. Approval tabled until revisions are reviewed.
- b) August,2023: Approved
- c) A conversation ensued about how minutes should be taken, written up, and approved. COA Director encouraged the COA Board to decide on whether the minutes will be taken as a verbatim transcript or a brief overview, and whether the public will be named or not. Vote on a set of guidelines and be consistent.

9. Adjourn

Documents Referenced: Director's Report