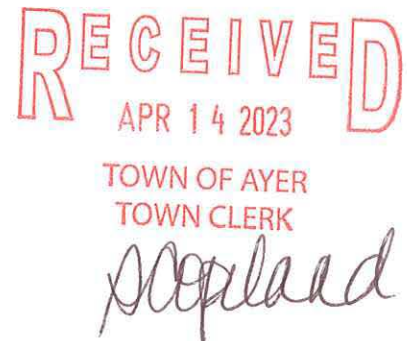


Ayer Council on Aging Board Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, February 24, 2023 at 2:00 PM
Meeting in Person at Senior Center, 18R Pond Street, Ayer
Minutes compiled by Janine Nichipor, Secretary

In Attendance:

COA Director Katie Petrossi
Dennis Curran, COA Board Chairperson
Janine Nichipor, COA Board Secretary
Carole Tillis, COA Board Member
Marge Withee, COA Board Member
Members of the public



Agenda for Meeting

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Public input**
3. **Discussion and vote re the recommendation of the site selection committee for the next steps in pursuing a new Senior Center/Community Center for Ayer.**
4. **Meeting minutes standards and approval process**
5. **Added: Old Business and New Business**
6. **Adjourn**

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Dennis Curran at 2:08 PM.

2. Public input

Eight people from the public attended and joined discussions.

3. Discussion and vote re the recommendation of the site selection committee for the next steps in pursuing a new Senior Center/Community Center for Ayer.

--Katie reviewed the history of looking for a site including the Feasibility Study and the Town Meeting in Fall 2020 which "tabled" the proposal to use the land at 211 West Main Street due to environmental concerns. After that meeting a committee was brought together to explore more site options. Katie announced that they are now proposing to build on Pirone Park Field 6 with expanded parking, in partnership with Parks and Recreation.

--Marge read a prepared motion which stated:

I move that the Ayer Council on Aging vote to endorse the Senior Center Site Selection Working Group's recommendation to locate the construction of a multi-use Senior Center/Community Center on a portion of Pirone Park as identified in the Site Selection Recommendation, and further request that the Ayer Select Board form a Building

Committee for the purposes of designing, funding, and constructing the Senior Center/Community Center at the Pirone Park site.

--The Board and the public discussed pros and cons of the project and plans for further Meetings when the new Building Committee is formed. Some requested transportation to meetings if not at Pond St. A new Senior Center facility is needed and some liked proximity to Pond St. Senior housing. A concern was voiced about losing a field that is used "all summer," parking issues, and there are still other options that could be explored. Administrative complexity with merging of departments was noted.

--Votes on the Motion: Yes: Dennis Curran, Carole Tillis, Marge Withee,
No: Janine Nichipor, Motion carried.

--Katie will try to post project updates in the Newsletter, and Robocall system could be used. There was discussion on some people not getting Robocalls from Senior Center which could be due to their personal Spam blocking. Sometimes the system could have a glitch.

4. Meeting minutes standards and approval process

--Janine made a motion to write more concise minutes and record motions per the instructions by the Town Manager which we received after she wrote to ask for guidelines.

--Dennis reworded the motion to say:

"To accept the suggestions as prescribed by Town Manager Robert Pontbriand in the email dated January 30, 2023." Seconded by Marge Withee.

--Vote on the motion: Yes: Dennis Curran, Janine Nichipor, Carole Tillis, Marge Withee,
No further discussion.

5. Added: Old Business and New Business

OLD BUSINESS

--We noted the absence of Sister Paula who left the COA Board as she has moved out of town. We would like to do something in her honor, and ideas were: a plaque in a room—perhaps the lunchroom, lunch in her honor—either or both. There are Covid restrictions where she now lives, which limit if she can attend an event and then return to her building.

--Outreach Coordinator and Social Worker positions are not filled. The viable candidates either stayed at their position or took another job that worked better for them.

NEW BUSINESS

--Janine mentioned that she met the new Library Director Luke Kirkland and he is open to considering cosponsoring COA events in order to share library space. This was on the table before Covid with the previous COA and Library directors, and could help both the COA and the Library. Katie said she recently met Luke and expects they will talk again. Partnering with the Library could provide space for more programs and private meetings such as the AARP tax program. Discussion by the public and the Board about library hours—not open on Sundays and Mondays, and maybe snow days.

--WIFI for the public to use at the Ayer Senior Center is password protected and is not separate from the employee system, so right now cannot accommodate classes or a lot of users. IT, Ayer Housing, Finance or other departments may need to be involved. Janine made the Motion: "For Katie Petrossi to start the process to look into expanding WIFI for patron use at the Ayer Senior Center." Seconded by Dennis Curran.

Votes on the Motion: Yes: Dennis Curran and Janine Nichipor No: Carole Tillis and Marge Withee. Since the vote was tied, the motion did not pass.

--Ayer Annual Report for 2022 is being compiled. Last year the COA Board worked on it because Katie was new. This year Katie will write it as she has our input from last year and has her own extensive knowledge of current programs. Everyone agreed to Katie writing the COA portion for the 2022 Ayer Annual Report.

11. Adjourn at 3:14 PM.

--Motion to adjourn by Janine and seconded by Marge. All agreed.

DOCUMENTS Used at Meeting

--Agenda

--Email dated January 30, 2023 regarding email guidelines from Town Manager

Dennis Curran
April 14, 2023