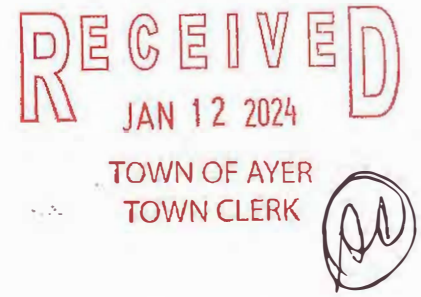


Town of Ayer
Council on Aging Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 12, 2023
Ayer Senior Center, 18 Pond Street Rear, Ayer, MA 01432



Agenda

https://www.ayer.ma.us/sites/g/files/vyhlif2756/f/agendas/council_on_aging_board_meeting_agenda_december_12_2023_2pm.pdf

Present:

Dennis Curran, Chairperson
Marge Withee, Clerk
Mary Markham, Member
Janine Nichipor, Member
Katie Petrossi, COA Director
Carly Antonellis- Assistant Town Manager

Absent:

Bob Gardner, Member

Minutes Taken by: Mary Ellen Gorman
Meeting filmed by M. Nichipor

1. Call to Order 2:06

Meeting called order by D. Curran

2. Approve / Amend Agenda

- a. M. Markham made motion to approve meeting minutes as revised for July, September, October, and November 2023, seconded by D. Curran. Motion accepted 5-0

3. Directors Report

- a. K. Petrossi reviewed the budget with an explanation of each category within COA.
- b. Review of Special/Revenue Accounts for the COA
- c. Review of Statistics for the senior center for month, average attendance noted, special programs.
- d. The Senior Center was awarded a \$42,433 Hybrid Programming Seniors Grant by the Executive office of Elder Affairs. The grant will provide equipment to record and stream hybrid programs as well as lending library of chrome books and I pads for seniors.
- e. Meals served: 344 to 60 people (4 MOC, 15 catered and 1 supper club) 6 out of 15 catered meals filled to capacity and remaining nearly filled.
- f. Volunteer hours: 10 people volunteered 156 hours, equivalent to \$2,225.
- h. A donation was given to create a meal scholarship fund for those who cannot afford \$3.00 suggested donation.
- i. Publicity for volunteers yielded 3 potential volunteers. Meals on wheels driver is needed as long-term sub.
- h. Yearly "Listening Session" held 12 seniors in attendance. Posters were left hanging up for others to make suggestions and add thoughts.

4. Site selection/ building committee update:

- a. Committee did a preliminary review of town owned property. Retained 11 properties for further examination.

5. COA Board Volunteer Opportunities

- a. Assist serving holiday luncheon on 12/22. Mary Markham, Dennis Curren and Marge Withee volunteered.
- b. COA Board agreed to give meal coupon at holiday luncheon, for use in 2024.

6. Follow -up re: COA Board Office hours

M. Markham and D. Curran covered this month. One Senior came in from community, regarding safety of seniors living alone, steps they should take (burglary, home safety, technology options, and who to reach out to). Discussion that followed included K. Petrossi suggesting possible Senior Center presentations, Outreach Coordinator doing brief home safety assessment in community, and the Fire Dept. Safe Seniors grant program.

7. Public input – Discussion of types of safety devices, plans and advice.

8. Future topics for newsletter Board notes

- a. Office hours for Jan will be taken by M. Withee and R. Gardner
- b. M. Markham to do a short write-up on senior taxes.
- c. J. Nichipor – “Technology love it or leave it” wants to work with K. Petrossi on this. Potential for Feb tie in with K. Petrossi looking into train the trainer’s curriculum from “Cyber Seniors” proposed Community Foundation Grant and EOEA Hybrid Programming Grant.

9. Follow -up re: wheelchair ramp at Pleasant Street Park

- a. K. Petrossi spoke with K. Martin in Housing Authority about whether it is AHA or DPW jurisdiction to fund and complete improvements.
- b. M. Withee reached out to the Board member has not heard back.
- c. The Board discussed how to move forward, who will be responsible discussed.
- d. C Antonellis discussed the role of the Town on this potential project.
- e. D. Curran suggested writing letter to Housing Authority to request moving forward with this in their budget. M Withee and D. Curran to work together.
- f. Board members to consider going to Decembers Disabilities Commission mtg.

10. Goals for COA Board: Come to next meeting with thoughts and ideas.

11. Public Input

B. Wilson : Holding special events in bigger places- church basements with potential free use Discussion about renting special space – putting programming at other places- cost/ more stop gap expands programming, ex: Jeff classes through us but elsewhere. Staff issues/ cost effectiveness/transportation to be considered.

B. Gibbons: Senior Center site selection/Building committee was not live via APAC
C Antonellis explained APAC will only Live BOS meeting zoom mtg rebroadcast at later day.

Discussed APAC abilities.

D Curran will be requesting SCBC permission to reach on their behalf to APAC

Next meeting for Council on Aging Board:

January 9 2024 at 2 :00 pm.

Ayer Senior Center

Motion to Adjourn

M. Markham made motion to adjourn, D. Curran agreed all in favor 5-5

mja
1-9-2024