

**Weston Council on Aging  
Board Meeting Minutes  
April 25, 2019**

Present: Mignonne Murray (Director), Gerri Scoll (Chair), Vida Goldstein (Associate Member), Marge Ackerman, Leslye Fligor, Jean MacQuiddy, Phyllis Ritvo (Associate Member), Bob Froh, Tom Nicholson, Wayne Johnson, Alice Benson, Carol Ott, Betsey Boyd

Absent: Melissa Galton, Prather Palmer

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

There were no resident concerns presented. The minutes from January were reviewed and discussed. Carol moved that we accept the minutes as written; Tom seconded and all approved. The minutes passed unanimously.

**Special Guest:** Town Manager, Leon Gaumond

Leon introduced himself. He talked about becoming familiar with Weston and the Council on Aging. He graduated from University of Maryland and has worked in Massachusetts government. He has been a town administrator for many years in West Boylston and other towns west of Weston. Leon has extensive experience with 40B projects as well as other issues that affect the livelihood of all towns. Leon gave a great explanation of the process of a “hostile” 40B development project starting with the “Project Eligibility Letter” from the state of Massachusetts.

**Director’s Report:**

Mignonne reported that she presented the “Needs Assessment” report to all the town department heads yesterday. This was important to highlight and bring awareness to the needs of our older community members. Leon suggested that we use all the publicity channels that we have available to get the information out to the entire community. We have hired Maria Tieger to help with the front desk and administrative office tasks. Mignonne participated in a presentation highlighting the differences between the COA and Recreation Departments. Audrey Pepper will be able to speak to the uniqueness of the Arts and Innovation Center as well. Mignonne offered Board members the opportunity to visit other senior centers in the area. Discussion turned to the sewerage treatment conundrum in regards to the Case Campus. It will cost 10 million dollars to upgrade the sewerage system in the Case Center area.

An update to the lounge/café space project was given by Mignonne. The donor came and had a tour and explanation of the plan. The price to reconfigure the gathering area at the COA would be \$18,500. The donor is anxious to get the project under way. The board agreed (by vote) to give Mignonne the authority to move forward with the project and in communicating our needs to the donor.

Leslye mentioned that the current tables in the COA are not collapsible. This has led to a number of problems including storage of the tables. Mignonne will look into the cost of new tables.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

Marge reported that the general fund still has \$15,845 which is on target for our budget. We have used 66% of our allotted budget. Maria Tieger’s salary will be taken from the Formula Grant. The Formula Grant has arrived in the coffers. The Harvard Pilgrim Grant of \$1,137 will be used for the walking group. The Miscellaneous Gift fund has increased by \$10,000 due to a donation by a COA client and now has a balance of \$45,957. The Treasurer’s report was accepted.

**Springwell Board** – There was a vote to recommend Jean MacQuiddy represent Weston on the Springwell Board with Wayne Johnson. Wayne moved to accept Jean and Carol seconded and all approved. Phyllis Ritvo suggested the Board learn more (or even visit) Springwell. Wayne strongly agreed.

**Discussion of Needs Assessment** – Next steps will be discussed going forward. The presentation of the report will be on May 8<sup>th</sup> here at the COA. The Needs Assessment committee will help Mignone with the explanation of the report.

**Committee Reports:**

Community Connections – Vida mentioned that the intergenerational programs are on-going even though the liaisons from the Board have left. Many programs are being explored for the future. There will be a meeting next week. Phylis mentioned tours to alternative elderly housing options in Weston that are very informational and well received. Another program was given by Joyce Funeral Home all about the cost and options for funerals. Leslye and Liz gave a presentation on getting your home ready for sale, followed by a presentation on de-cluttering. Many more programs are in the works.

Governance – Marge mentioned they met on April 10<sup>th</sup> and are working to fill a Board vacancy. One application has been received from a high school student. One change going forward is that anyone who is appointed to finish out a current member's term will be filling for a 4 year term. Please encourage good candidates to apply.

Transportation – Jean reported that they have not had a recent meeting, but they did go on a field trip to look at electric cars and talked about a charging station at the COA. Jean represents Weston at the MWRTA transportation group and said they are adding new routes to their service. Taxi usage has dropped and the van usage is up according to Mignonne.

COA Senior Housing – Tom reported that they had a meeting with Al Aydelott to talk about the 40B projects on South Ave and Boston Post Road. They want the developers to consider the needs of the older population in Weston. They are moving forward with several meetings planned with the town and developers. Gerri mentioned that design additions need to take into account the needs of the elderly with all the housing projects going forward. Future meetings will be posted.

Technology – No update at this time.

**Working Groups/Liaisons:**

Personal Finance – No update at this time.

Welcome and Hospitality – No update at this time.

FCOA – Betsey reported that this group only meets quarterly. The spring appeal has been extremely successful when compared to last year. There are a few vacancies on the FCOA Board.

There were no other concerns mentioned.

Marge motioned to adjourn, Tom seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:31am.

**The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at 8:30am.**

