

**Weston Council on Aging
Board Meeting Minutes
July 18, 2019**

Present: Mignonne Murray (Director), Gerri Scoll (Chair), Betsey Boyd, Jean MacQuiddy, Bob Froh, Carol Ott, Wayne Johnson, Prather Palmer, Susan Ruskin Friend, Jane Donnelly, Teresa Young (Associate Member)

Absent: Melissa Galton, Vida Goldstein (associate member), Leslye Fligor, Marge Ackerman (Vice Chair), Phyllis Ritvo (associate member), Alice Benson, Tom Nicholson

The meeting was called to order by Gerri Scoll (Chair) at 8:34am.

There were no resident concerns presented. Gerri introduced the new board members Susan Ruskin Friend and Jane Donnelly, and new Associate Member Theresa Liu. The minutes were reviewed and discussed. Wayne moved that we accept the minutes; Betsey seconded and all approved. The minutes passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Prather gave his first report as the new treasurer. Going forward, Prather will give the board a highlight from the report at each board meeting as well as a little history behind each of the gift accounts. Betsey motioned that we accept the report, Jane seconded and all approved.

Chair's Report –

Gerri started off her report talking about “Transportation”. The question is: Do we need an increase in the budget to pay for a dedicated person to take care of transportation? This may be optimal since it is such a concern of the citizens of Weston. Mignonne mentioned that at this time Audrey Pepper is handling the job of “Transportation” and is doing a fine job. As transportation needs increase, this may need revisiting. The COA’s use of services by Uber and Lyft is still in its infancy, so hopefully this will help with transportation in the future. The board talked about Newton’s current implementation of transportation services. Mignonne gave an overview of Weston COA’s transportation services including F.I.S.H., Weston Shuttle and taxi service (coupons - \$2 for rides within Weston, and \$7 for rides to contiguous towns and Framingham). Another well received service is “Go Go Grandparent” that is available to the general public. Mignonne was asked to grade our service in comparison to other towns. Weston have certainly made great strides especially in regards to the breadth of service we provide. Our users have many options to get from here to there.

Director's Report:

Mignonne explained that we have received our \$25,000 donation for the furniture for our new meeting/socializing area in the C.O.A. Things are moving forward. When the project is completed we will have an opening reception to thank the family that donated the funds in honor of their mother. This will be an opportunity to highlight the great services provided by the C.O.A. The Board discussed the age restrictions on the classes held at the C.O.A. Lifting the age restrictions will help with raising awareness of the C.O.A. Next, Mignonne said that we have two social workers at the C.O.A. (full time and part time). Mignonne shared with the group that there are no social services in town that exist to help those under the age of 60. She asked the Board to think about if we could/should help with this in the future. There are pros and cons to expanding our social services to include younger residents in

Weston which is already done informally due to the fact the C.O.A. is the only town group that offers social services. The Board will be discussing this in the future.

We received a \$300 donation for the Food Pantry from the Foundation for Metrowest. There is a massive stain on the back hall carpet due to a water leak that we are hoping to fix.

Committee Reports:

Governance – No meeting was held.

Needs Assessment – Wayne mentioned that there was a great field trip to the Natick and Wellesley Councils on Aging. Wayne recommended that we try to visit at some point to get a visual perspective on what is available at other Council on Aging campuses. Betsey and Jean are going to schedule another trip to those C.O.A.s, so contact Betsey if you would like to join them. Both Natick and Wellesley have cafes and gift shops for their visitors. The Awareness Group will be meeting for the first time soon to discuss marketing.

COA Housing Committee – Bob discussed the status of housing projects in town. The COA has information about ways to make housing age friendly by using design elements that work well for residents of all ages and data from the needs assessment that can be shared about the needs identified about housing in our community.

Transportation – This was covered in the Chair’s report at the start of the meeting (see above).

Community Connections – No meeting will be held till the fall.

Working Groups/Liaisons:

FCOA – Their annual meeting was held 2 weeks ago. Holly would like to know if they could put a “Friends of the COA” donation display and pamphlet at the reception desk. The Board thought that was a great idea. Also, they are planning a trip to Sana Fe for interested residents. They gave \$50,600 this year to help augment the programs at the COA. They will continue this relationship.

Personal Finance - No meeting will be held until the Fall.

Springwell – Wayne reported that the longtime director of Springwell will be retiring so there will be a new person coming in. Wayne and Jean will be looking into the finances of this great organization.

Finally, Gerri mentioned that there is now a pickle ball court at the Brook School Apartments! There being no further concerns, Jean moved that we adjourn, Betsey seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:07am.

The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, September 19, 2019 at 8:30am.