

**RECEIVED**

By Jim Alexander - Asst. Town Clerk at 11:40 am, Jun 21, 2023

MAYNARD COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD

Minutes

May 16, 2023

In attendance: Paul Guthrie, Mary Mitzcavitch, Jan Rosenberg

Guests: Peg Brown, Mary Ann Shields and Mike Stevens

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes from April 18, 2023 were approved.

**Public comments:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Director's Report:**

Amy provided program updates which included that the Doug Tallamy presentation, co-sponsored with the Maynard Library had over 50 attendees, many of which were seniors. Assabet Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School students visited the COA and offered technical assistance to several seniors. Senior CPR was held at the Maynard Fire Station and facilitated by Fire Chief Angela Lawless. The seated senior fitness class continues to include new seniors/seniors who have not yet attended programs at the COA.

Amy expressed concern around negative narrative around the limitations or "non-existence" of the COA space. Pat and Amy have received calls from seniors in the community who were unclear if there was a senior center. Amy noted that promotion of current activity at the COA does not affect the perceived need for a space, but rather illustrates expansion of services/engagement promotes the needs for a space.

Amy reported on the conversation with the members of the Capital Planning Committee, Senior Center Focus Group and COA Board. Jon Larkin, of the CPC, recommended a capital request for a feasibility study in order to target a senior/community center. Amy asked the COA Board if she should work with the Town Administrator to develop this capital request. The COA Board recommended she do this. The money allocated to the senior center needs assessment study/seniors' needs at the Town Meeting could be directed toward a feasibility study if other funding is secured for the needs assessment study.

**Maynard Senior Center Focus Group Update:**

Peg Brown reported that Armand Diabekirian and Ellen Duggan have resigned from the focus group. Rep. Kate Hogan has submitted an earmark for the UMASS Boston Needs Assessment Study which is now in the House budget. Peg attended a Finance Committee meeting and noted that the need for a senior center was included in their presentation slideshow. Peg will be meeting with Alannah Gustafson before she steps down from the Finance Committee to discuss how to advocate for the senior center. Peg felt the best option would be to address the operating budget process.

**Old/new business:**

The COA Board discussed the recent COA Board training at the Lexington Senior Center. Members found that sharing common issues and concerns about many things related to COA's was very helpful. Jan felt that creating "infrastructure" with the COA Board is important at this time with many projects and collaborations on the horizon. The members explored the idea of creating subcommittees with different areas of focus and including volunteers to pursue the goals of each. It was decided to continue the discussion at the June meeting when Mary Ann Shields has been sworn in as a new COA Board member.

As well, the COA Board decided to change the day of the monthly meeting to the second Tuesday of the month starting in September, pending the Select Board's schedule.

The meeting adjourned at 4:15.