

BERKLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of Meeting
August 5, 2021

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held in the Activity Room on Thursday, August 5, 2021 at 2:30p.m. The meeting was duly posted.

Board members present: Chairwoman Margaret Moroff, Vice-Chairwoman Nancy Thompson, Arlene Medeiros and Wendy Cochrane.

Staff present: Amanda Blais, Director.

Public present: Raymond Hague and Jeanne Russo

I. Call to Order at 2:30p.m.

Margaret Moroff called the meeting to order at 2:30p.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

Margaret Moroff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 2, 2021 meeting. Arlene Medeiros asked for a change to be made in the minutes regarding her unavailability to meet to continue discussion of COA By-law Update under Old and New Business. Wording should be changed from “August” to “July”. Motion to accept the minutes with changes was made by Nancy Thompson and seconded by Wendy Cochrane. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Director’s Report

In an effort to save time during the present meeting, the Director requested all Board members read the Director’s Report prior to the meeting. The Director will not be reading the report during the meeting unless to provide clarification.

The Murder Mystery Lunch sponsored by the Friends of COA – Nancy Thompson confirmed the activity requires 24 participants, but 73 can be accepted.

Lose to Win Challenge – Due to scheduling conflicts, the Director will not be able to continue conducting weigh-ins for this program. Nancy Thompson suggested that September be the last month the program will be offered. Friends of COA will be notified since they are sponsoring the \$50 gift cards to winners.

Margaret Moroff made an announcement that the goodie bags funded by MCOA are available to senior residents for pickup; if a home delivery is necessary, arrangements can be made by calling the COA.

IV. Committee Report

The Director informed the Board that Lestyn Gilmore is interested in offering a class using the rubber stamp collection at the COA. The Board decided to put this on hold to see if anyone is interested in taking the class.

The Director informed the Board that Melissa Ahaesy, LMHC would like to offer a craft class to make headbands with interested seniors who are participating in the Murder Mystery Lunch. Craft supplies purchased by Melissa Ahaesy in the amount of \$75.00 would need to be reimbursed. Motion to approve the activity and reimbursement was made by Wendy Cochrane and seconded by Arlene Medeiros. The motion passed unanimously.

The Director informed the Board of the low participation rate for the blood pressure and wellness clinic through Community Nurse Home Care. The Board discussed discontinuing the program until a volunteer can be recruited to offer monthly blood pressure checks. Motion to discontinue the program was made by Wendy Cochrane and seconded by Nancy Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

The Director informed the Board of volunteers who can assist with coordinating trips. Jane Pittsley offers a monthly Foxwoods bus trip and all money that is collected is paid to the Fisher Bus Company. This would not be a COA sponsored trip, however a flyer can be posted in the Activity Room, website and newsletter to inform interested participants of the trip. Motion to approve was made by Wendy Cochrane and seconded by Arlene Medeiros. The motion passed unanimously. Joanne Crowninshield has volunteered to coordinate trips offered by the COA. The Board discussed trip suggestions such as Somerset/Berkley choir, Rockettes in NYC, Niagra Falls, Pennsylvania Dutch, etc. Motion to approve was made by Wendy Cochrane and seconded by Nancy Thompson. Margaret Moroff announced that there is a mask requirement on buses, however a mask requirement depends on the venue itself. Margaret Moroff also announced that it is recommended by the CDC at the COA to wear a mask if not vaccinated.

V. Old and New Business

The Board did not discuss the creation of new committees such as activity planning, etc.

The Board did not have a discussion of ideas for the COVID Cares Act Funding.

Margaret Moroff announced that, during the previous Brown Bag food distribution, it was noticed that the side of the COA building needs cleaning. The Board agreed to have the Director write and submit a letter to the Board of Selectmen, requesting the side of the building be power washed. Motion to approve that a letter be written and submitted by the Director was made by Arlene Medeiros and seconded by Nancy Thompson with an abstain from Wendy Cochrane. The motion passed 3-0 with 1 abstain.

Nancy Thompson requested to discuss the annual Holiday Party and informed the Director with specifics of the event – Holiday Party is usually held on the 1st Saturday of December from noon until 2pm at the Berkley Middle School and food is catered through D&D Catering. The Board suggested the Director contact the Superintendent to coordinate the event.

VI. Correspondence and Emails

The Director informed the Board of the following correspondence:

- Raymond Hague, New Veteran's Agent – appeared before the Board to introduce himself as the new Veteran's Agent for Berkley and Dighton. Raymond Hague previously worked at the Fall River Veteran Service Office and joined Berkley/Dighton in July 2021. He has office hours in Berkley on Tuesdays and in Dighton on Mondays and Wednesdays. Raymond agreed to participate in a Veteran's Agent Meet n' Greet in November. Nancy Thompson suggested inviting all Veterans, not just seniors. Nancy Thompson stated she would ask the Friends of Council on Aging to sponsor coffee and pastries. Jeanne Russo asked Raymond Hague for suggestions to recruit males to the COA and Raymond suggested setting aside a few hours to bring in talks on Veteran benefits and resources. Wendy Cochrane suggested the Director contact Commander Rick at the American Legion to offer a Veteran Resource Day. Jeanne Russo suggested the Meet n' Greet be offered on the weekend to recruit working Veterans.
- Eden Jones, Berkley Cultural Council – the Director informed the Board that Eden Jones notified the Director that the request to transfer grant funding from the Whitehall Museum to the

Boston Science Museum had been approved. Due to grant funding, interested seniors must be residents from Berkley or members of the Friends of Council on Aging.

- Bristol Elder Services – Margaret Moroff announced she has resigned from the Board of Directors through Bristol Elder Services. The Director will begin attending meetings in October.

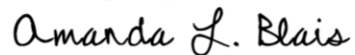
VII. Future Business

Members of the public did not offer input regarding future business.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, Nancy Thompson made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Arlene Medeiros. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:46p.m. The next scheduled meeting will be Friday, September 3, 2021 at 9:00a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amanda L. Blais". The script is cursive and fluid.

Amanda L. Blais
COA Director