

BERKLEY COUNCIL ON AGING  
Minutes of Meeting  
**March 3, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held in the Activity Room on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 11:00a.m. The meeting was duly posted.

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

Staff present: Amanda Blais, Director.

Public present: Priscilla Martin, Elizabeth Monkowski and Donna Benoit.

**I. Call to Order at 11:00a.m.**

Margaret Moroff called the meeting to order at the time stated on the posted agenda.

**II. Approval of Minutes**

Margaret Moroff asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2021 meeting. Motion made by Nancy Thompson and seconded by Arlene Medeiros. The motion passed unanimously.

**III. Treasury Report**

Margaret Moroff stated there wasn't a treasury report to review, however there were two invoices that needed signatures from members of the Board. Invoices were signed. Margaret Moroff asked for a motion to approve the Director to sign all invoices moving forward without needing approval from the Board. Motion made by Wendy Cochrane and seconded by Nancy Thompson. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Committee Report**

Margaret Moroff stated that the only programs that are allowed to return to the Council on Aging at this time due to COVID-19 include Italian, Quilting and Bingo, with all other programs on hold until discussion at the next Board meeting. Bingo will have a limit of 12 participants and those wanting to attend must call the Council on Aging to reserve their seat. Bingo will begin on March 10, 2021 at 12:30pm. Margaret Moroff asked the Director to contact the seniors listed in My Senior Center who have participated in Bingo in the past.

Margaret Moroff stated, in regard to programs and activities, the Director does not have to be present if schedule does not allow. The Director will adjust the 25 hour per week schedule to accommodate programs as needed.

Nancy Thompson stated, on behalf of the Tai Chi instructor, that participants can continue to utilize his studio even after the Council on Aging reopens. This will leave an opening available at the Council on Aging to allow for another activity to utilize the Activity Room.

**V. Old and New Business**

Margaret Moroff stated she didn't believe there is a limit to how many meals could be reserved for the Grab n' Go lunch that will be provided by Heart to Home on March 26, 2021. The Director will call Heart to Home to clarify.

Margaret Moroff provided an update regarding the position of the Director. The Director had applied for a grant last week to help with social isolation among senior residents; a decision will be made on March 5, 2021 to determine grant funding distribution. The Director also has webinars scheduled through MCOA and My Senior Center. Nancy Thompson suggested putting a Meet and Greet together when possible for senior residents to meet the new Director.

Margaret Moroff briefly discussed COVID-19, stating there are limited vaccines available and encouraged seniors to check the Mass.gov website during early morning hours to attempt to book an appointment.

## **VI. Correspondence and Emails**

In regard to the Podiatry Clinic, the Director informed the Board that messages were left with the podiatrist and the Director spoke briefly with the answering service for the practice. Wendy Cochrane provided a backline telephone number to Morton Hospital for the Director to check if the podiatrist is still in practice. Margaret Moroff suggested the Director mail a letter to the practice if the backline telephone number does not work.

In regard to the Lose to Win Weight-loss Challenge, the Director informed the Board there have been three individuals signed up so far who are interested in participating in the challenge. Nancy Thompson volunteered to weigh-in participants each week for the duration of the challenge.

Margaret Moroff stated the Council on Aging has been approved for three grants by the Cultural Council. The grants include the following:

- Lunch on the Farm
- Bus trip to General Berkley's home tour in Middletown, RI
- Sit down (chair) Zumba class; to be used when COA reopens

Wendy Cochrane wished to recognize the passing of Board member Alice Medeiros. The Board offered their condolences. Margaret Moroff mentioned that donations have been created through the Berkley library by the daughter of Alice Medeiros.

## **VII. Future Business**

Margaret Moroff asked members of the public for input. Priscilla Martin asked if the bulk mailing for COA newsletters allowed for mailing to residents living outside of the Berkley area. Margaret Moroff stated there hasn't been an issue in the past to mail to outside areas and clarified that the newsletter can be mailed to those who live outside of Berkley.

Nancy Thompson asked the Board if the meeting time could be changed to 11:30a.m. moving forward. The Board did not object to changing the meeting time.

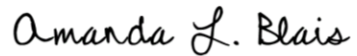
Priscilla Martin briefly discussed the free hot dog and entertainment for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Wendy Cochrane will submit application to the Board of Selectmen.

Priscilla Martin proposed an idea to the Board to have a fair in September. Margaret Moroff tabled the discussion until the April meeting. Priscilla Martin reminded the Board that vendors participating in the fair would need to be notified as soon as possible.

### **VIII. Adjournment**

There being no other business before the Board, Wendy Cochrane made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Nancy Thompson. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:57a.m. The next scheduled meeting will be Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 11:30a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amanda L. Blais".

Amanda L. Blais  
COA Director