

Northfield Council on Aging Board Meeting:  
March 21, 2023

**Attendance:** Jim Whitcomb, Co-Chair, presiding; Meg Livingstone, Debby Wiesen Kelly, Colleen Letourneau, Director; Peter Vearling, Chris Harris. Absent: Deb Lanou, Betty Whitcomb.

**Minutes:** The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. Based on a review of the minutes of the previous meeting (Feb. 21, 2023), Meg Livingstone moved to accept the minutes and Pete Vearling seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report** (submitted in absentia by Betty Whitcomb): Minor discrepancies no larger than \$30 were attributed to different times of the month when amounts are recorded by the town treasurer. Debby Wiesen Kelly made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, Meg Livingstone seconded, and carried.

**Chair's Report:**

New board members (Vearling and Harris) welcomed.

- Acknowledgment of previous board member Judy Tate's service.
- Outreach and Marketing Committee update: (Jim, Meg and Deb Lanou) Pending.
- Acknowledgement of persons who assisted to obtain funding for the "Hear Here Northfield" and the BBQ Grill/Senior Center shed projects. These include Debby Wiesen Kelly and David Kelly, who made up the logo; Colleen Letourneau, who was instrumental; Deb Lanou, Misha Storm (Dickinson Memorial Library Director) and Andrea Llamas (Town Administrator).
- The Shed and Grill project: Jim Whitcomb is to be thanked for this important project that was funded through the Community Preservation Committee and has the approval of the Selectboard. It will go before Town Meeting for final approval on May 1, 2023.
- Policy and Procedures Committee: (Meg, Deb and Jim). Meeting pending.
- Board members search: There was discussion around recruiting new members.

**Director's Report:**

- Colleen is planning a volunteer recognition event to be held at Four Star Farms on June 22, from 2 to 4 p.m., or 1 to 4 p.m.
- Update on Senior Transportation for participation in the 350th Anniversary Parade (Sept. 30): There was discussion about possible modes of transportation for our role in the 350th Anniversary Parade. The "Happy Little Feet" kids will be invited to join us.



- Update on MCOA (Mass. Council on Aging) Walk Challenge kick-off event set for May 4, at 1 p.m. They will do a presentation on health and wellness, nutrition and walking. They are going to raffle a Fitbit and sign people up for the Walk Challenge. The kick-off event will be publicized.
- Upcoming Senior Center Programs: On March 23 at 11 a.m. there will be a Coffee Social with the Northwestern District Attorney's Office, consisting of a senior-savvy trivia game about scams.
- On March 30th from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., the R.S.V.P said they needed one representative to go to Northampton for their annual meeting which Colleen will attend.
- On April 4 at 10:30 a.m., there will be a presentation on the proposed Public Safety Complex.
- Coming up: Colleen has a cultural council grant for an intergenerational program in May.
- Self-Defense for Seniors will be presented by Betty Whitcomb and Bernie Boudreau in April and May.
- Colleen wrote two letters to our representatives seeking support of a formula grant increase by the MCOA from \$12 to \$14 per senior for fiscal year 2024 budget. Reps. Jo Comerford and Susannah Whipps responded promptly, saying they'd be happy to endorse the increase.
- Friends of Northfield Seniors update (Debby Wiesen Kelly): Discussion of what we could do to offer an evening of fun or some event.
- MCOA will be offering new board member training. Colleen will forward their email to us. Registration required.
- Community Preservation Committee update (Meg Livingstone): Meg confirmed that our shed and grill requests were approved for funding by the Community Preservation Act Committee. This now goes before the Annual Town Meeting, set for May 1.
- Meg was named as a liaison to the CPC's subcommittee on housing for the Franklin Regional Housing Authority. More clarity is needed on this.

A motion to adjourn was made by Meg, seconded by Debby, and carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Harris, Acting Secretary

Approved date: 4/18/2023

Approved by: Christine M. Harris