

Northfield Council on Aging

Annual Meeting Minutes: June 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 1:06 p.m. at the Senior Center, Northfield Town Hall.

Attending: Colleen Letourneau (director), Deb Lanou (chair), Jim Whitcomb (co-chair), Peter Vearling, Betty Whitcomb (treasurer), Meg Livingstone (CPC liaison), Debby Wiesen Kelly (friends of Northfield Seniors liaison), Chris Harris (secretary)

Absent: None.

Minutes: Based on a review of minutes of the May 16, 2023 meeting, Debby Wiesen Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes and Peter Vearling seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Betty Whitcomb reports that everything reconciles, except for that \$65 that the town is still giving us. With the new fiscal year starting July 1st, the treasurer will incorporate that amount to accord with the town's ledger. Wiesen Kelly moved to accept the treasurer's report and Vearling seconded. All voted in favor.

Chair's Report

Coffee Social with LifePath: Chairperson Deb Lanou reported on the Coffee Social of June 5, introducing the new LifePath director, Gary Yuhas. One of the concerns raised at that Coffee Social was the need for an Adult Day Health setting for those persons with dementia and/or disabilities to offer respite to their caregiver. Currently there is no such setting, ever since Covid closed the site in Greenfield Ma. The following points were raised at this board meeting: You need a separate space for an Adult Day program. But for a memory café you can all be together in the same space. This might be a good outreach project for the Northfield Senior Center. Members agreed to pursue this project.

Election of officers: This being our Annual Meeting, there was an election of officers. The following slate of appointments was nominated, seconded and unanimously voted in: Betty Whitcomb, treasurer; Deb Lanou, chairperson; Jim Whitcomb, co-chair; Chris Harris, secretary.

Policies and Procedures: Meg moved to accept the latest version, as amended, of the policies and procedures and Jim seconded that. All voted in favor.

Appointments:

- **Community Preservation Committee (CPC):** In response to a letter from the CPC, Meg, who is our liaison, had to respond that she was willing to stay on it. She responded affirmatively and COA board members formally appointed Meg to be our liaison to the CPC.
- **Debbie Wiesen Kelly** agreed to remain as the appointed liaison to the Friends of Northfield Seniors, the fundraising arm of the Northfield COA.
- **Neighbors at Home** is represented by two COA board members, Betty Whitcomb and Chris Harris.
- **AARP/LifePath Age and Dementia Friendly Initiative:** Colleen will make some initial contact with Meg Ryan (FRCOG) and Carol Foot (LifePath) to learn what is happening and to indicate our interest in being part of it. If they have a liaison group formed, then Northfield COA will select a board member to join those meetings.

Director's Report

New Administrative Program Assistant: Colleen reported that we would like to hire Robin Jenkins for the position of Administrative Program Assistant to the Northfield Council on Aging. The selectboard

needs to appoint Robin at their next meeting June 26th before this appointment is made official. The hours will be Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., approximately with a start date of July 5th, 2023.

Plans for the Volunteer Appreciation event: Colleen previewed the Volunteer Appreciation Event set for Thursday, June 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. at The Brewery at Four Star Farm. RSVP's (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Pat Picard will be there to help acknowledge members' contributions.

Update on "Hear, Here, Northfield": Once we get three quotes on flooring, we will make our choice of vendors and coordinate with Shanahan's, the installation of the equipment for the hearing loop and subsequent flooring over the copper coils in the senior center.

Update on back parking lot: The first two weeks of August, the back parking lot is getting repaved, regraded, with new lights, drainage. The Senior Center will not be closed during those two weeks, but we will offer classes via Zoom for 60 (+) Yoga and Healthy Bones and Balance.

Update on the BBQ grill and shed for the Senior Center: The CPC (Community Preservation Committee) and the COA are working together to purchase the items that have been designated in the grant. Lara Dubin, the CPC chair, is authorizing invoices from Hamshaw Lumber for supplies and materials for building the shed.

Jim Whitcomb, Betty Whitcomb, Peter Vearling and Frank Froment are building the shed with professional consultation from Steve Roberto (a retired contractor).

Happy Feet: The next walk is Monday, June 26, on River Road between the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center pavilion and the French King Bridge.

Coffee Social: There will not be a Greenfield Savings Bank Coffee Social in July because that's their vacation.

350th: Colleen has put in a request that we be in the Northfield 350th Anniversary parade on Sept. 30th, maybe with a wagon pulled by draft horses.

Legislative update: Betty brought to our attention that the state legislature upped by \$1M their budget for elder nutrition and Meals on Wheels. This was reported in The Recorder's Beacon Hill Roll Call.

Neighbors at Home update: At their Annual Meeting on June 10, Neighbors at Home voted in new directors, including Chris Harris, a COA board member, and a slate of officers, including Betty Whitcomb, continuing as treasurer, also a COA board member.

Boston Post Cane: Colleen has been approached by various town officials about the Boston Post Cane, which we have on display in a case in the Senior Center. It has been suggested that we should recognize William Messer, who recently turned 100, as the oldest Northfield resident and award him with a plaque and certificate. We need to ascertain what the process is and make sure we know who the oldest citizen is. That could be the occasion for a special coffee social.

Friends of COA update: There was discussion by the Friends of the COA to do some kind of a raffle in August to raise money for the COA.

Pavilion replacement benches: Colleen has spoken to the Town Administrator who has generously agreed to purchase five Polywood benches for the pavilion which is used by many local groups.

A motion to adjourn was made by Meg Livingstone and seconded by Jim Whitcomb at 2:30 p.m. All voted to adjourn.

Approved date: 7-18-2023

Approved by: Christine M. Harris

Christine Harris, secretary