

Meeting of the Northborough Council on Aging

July 11, 2017 7:00 Senior Center

The role of the Northborough Council on Aging is to maintain or increase the quality of life for the mature citizens of our community. We do this through support advocacy, planning, coordination, and implementation of programs that bring mature citizens together for social, recreational, and educational purposes. We seek to educate the entire community and enlist its support and participation.

- 1. Call to Order:** A meeting of the Council on Aging of the Town of Northborough was called to order at 7:00 PM by Adrienne Cost, Chair with the following also present:

Jerry Anderson, Member	Tim Kaelin, Member
Linda Cragin, Member	Anita Hagspiel, Friends
Tony Pini, Member	Kelly Burke, Senior Center Director
Alice Stapelfeld, Member	

The following were not present: Ed Bombard, Member, Phylis Muthee, Member

2. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the June 2017 meeting were approved. Adrienne introduced Tim Kaelin, a new member of the board.

3. Friends' Report

The Friends' garden club fundraiser was successful and a good learning experience. There will be a beer and wine tasting event on August 4th at Whitney Place (Tim has some connections for Anita), a radio show is under consideration for September and the Country Fair will be in November. There is a "new idea" that will be shared at the next meeting! The newsletter has gained in advertising and it was wondered if there might be times we could have a slightly longer newsletter.

4. Director's Report

Kelly provided several updates and reviewed the newsletter. The beer and wine fundraiser is promoted on the cover; Aug 15th will be dinner and a show with the Seven Hills Quartet; Aug 29th will be Vin Femia who published Deflategate; Sept 7th will be the RSVP Fraud Squad Players about scams, and the Savvy Caregiver starts Sept. 19th. Kelly will present some suggested changes to the senior tax-work-off program, increasing the income guidelines (\$25,000 single to \$40,000, and \$40,000 married to \$55,000, these follow the state guidelines) and the value of the abatement (\$750 to \$1000). There are 15 slots and the participants support senior center activities. Kelly will also share the Dementia Friendly Innovator of the Year Award at the meeting.

5. WRTA Advisory Report

The contract for services have been received and is under review. There have been no negative issues with the fare increase discussed last month.

6. Bay Path Report

Jerry reported that the Governor has signed a one-month extension for the budget... one concern is the planned tax on employers whose employees use MassHealth – this could be 45% of the home care workforce and have an impact on the home health industry of \$5.5M in the first year. The plans for a new location for the nutrition program caterer are progressing, but there is a delay and an extension is needed. The program statistics were circulated.

7. Old Business

In the future, we will review the mission, purpose, etc. that Tony drafted.

8. Community Awareness/Board Outreach

Applefest will be in September, with the parade (Tim's son likes to walk in parades!) and street fair on the 16th. Ideas were discussed, including promoting the changes to the tax work-off program, dispelling the myths of the senior center, and promoting the many reasons why you want to come to the senior center. After discussion, it was agreed that a corn-hole game could be fun: if you answer the question right, you can toss the bean bag and win a prize. We need to develop an elevator speech to engage visitors – something to Draw them in, Hold them, manage them with Speed and provide a Prize (Jerry's 4 step idea). We need to discuss what is our overall message and make the day fun and memorable!

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Linda Cragin, Secretary