

BERKLEY COUNCIL ON AGING
Minutes of Meeting
April 7, 2022

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held in the Activity Room on Thursday, April 7, 2022 at 9:00am. The meeting was duly posted.

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

Public present: Nancy Thompson, Donna Benoit, Jeanne Russo

I. Call to Order

Chairwoman, Margaret Moroff called the meeting to order at 9:04am.

II. Announcement Regarding Meeting Being Video Taped

Chairwoman, Margaret Moroff announced that the meeting will be audio and video recorded.

III. Acceptance of Prior Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2021, January 11, 2022 Revised, February 10, 2022, and February 28, 2022

Wendy Cochrane made a motion to accept the minutes of November 15, 2022 as written, January 11, 2022 revised, February 10, 2022 revised with spelling corrections, and February 28, 2022 revised with spelling corrections. Arlene Medeiros seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

IV. Status of Director

Margaret Moroff stated that there is no update. Wendy Cochrane stated that it has been reposted again on Indeed. Margaret Moroff noted that there are other COA Director positions open in surrounding towns that are paying a lot more. Arlene Medeiros mentioned that with how they are handling things now, they may not need someone in the building for 5 hours a day. Discussion regarding changing the bylaws was had. Nancy Thompson stated that the COA Board was a working Board until they got a director.

V. Temporary Part Time Clerical Position

Margaret Moroff stated that someone in Town Hall has been helping out and is doing a very good job. Nancy Thompson inquired how she has been being paid. Margaret Moroff stated that she is being paid out of the Director salaries. Per the Union Contract, she has to work for her hourly wage under the other duties clause. Nancy Thompson suggested checking the calendar. The Board stated that when a class is canceled, the Board needs to be notified and not just crossed off the calendar.

VI. Proposed Budget for FY2023

Wendy Cochrane stated that the proposed budget was presented to the Financial Committee and noted that some monies were moved around with an overall 3% increase. Wendy Cochrane discussed budget increases.

VII. FY2022 Budget:

a. Town Budget

Arlene Medeiros discussed current budget amounts. Discussion of transferring balances was continued. Wendy Cochrane suggested planning a trip with the money, contingent it passes at Town Meeting. She also suggested meeting next week to further discuss.

Arlene Medeiros motioned to transfer monies from postage and other into the newsletter account. Wendy Cochrane seconded the motion, all voted in favor.

Wendy Cochrane stated that the last newsletter printed at BP will be in June for July newsletter. In July and August, the newsletter will have to be printed at Town Hall.

b. Formula Grant

Wendy Cochrane stated that the Formula Grant has not come in as of this morning. She stated that it would be the same amount as FY22 and that they are not allowed to carry any balances over into the new fiscal year. Balances and debt were discussed. Nancy Thompson suggested approaching the Friends for money. Margaret Moroff stated they will not ask the Friends to fund the exercise programs as it is a continuous cost. Arlene Medeiros asked to hold the conversation until Review of All Programs.

c. Donations – Two Accounts

Arlene Medeiros discussed balances in the donation accounts, gifts and donations and program donations. She mentioned that the donations have slightly gone up over time.

VIII. Lunch on the Farm

Margaret Moroff stated she is still waiting for a phone call but is hoping it will be sometime in June. Nancy Thompson stated that the available dates were June 15th and 22nd and they were going to charge \$25 per person. The Friends have already stated they would fund 100 meals.

IX. Songs of World War II

Wendy Cochrane suggested moving the entertainment a little later in the day to see if they can bring in more people. The Board discussed having refreshments and snacks. Margaret Moroff stated they would have to cancel BINGO.

X. Survey Responses

No new programs were suggested in the surveys.

XI. Review of All Programs

Margaret Moroff stated that she spoke with Lucille who mentioned she has had a lot of people come to her with mental health issues. She mentioned that the Historical Commission wanted help identifying pictures, she stated that she would like to bring some over to the Center and have people come in and be able to talk. Donna Benoit suggested putting something in the church bulletins. Discussion continued. Wendy Cochrane also suggested starting a walking club at Dighton Rock. Margaret Moroff stated that Chair Yoga will stop at the end of April due to traveling conflicts with the instructor. She also stated that starting May 1st, Tai Chi will be back at Town Hall on Thursdays. Arlene Medeiros suggested moving Tai Chi down to just once a week as it is one of the most expensive programs. The Board agreed. Margaret Moroff stated

that most other Senior Centers only offer programs once a week and charge fees. The Board reviewed the program cost spreadsheet. Discussion regarding programs and the deficit continued. It was suggested to have people pay full price for programs. Margaret Moroff stated if they charge fees, it has to go into the general fund. She also mentioned that they want to reach more seniors with different programs. Nancy Thompson suggested having people to look into grants. Margaret Moroff stated that they have to be very careful with volunteers. Arlene Medeiros motioned to cancel Tai Chi's on Tuesdays as of May 1st and only offer it once a week. Wendy Cochrane seconded the motion, all voted in favor. Tai Chi will be held at Town Hall on Thursdays at 10:30am. Manicures were put on hold for two months. It was suggested to have her come in and have them book with and pay her directly. Margaret Moroff stated she would like to look at a program with Amy for the month of May to see if there is any attendance. Arlene Medeiros stated that Body in Motion has been very generous in donations. Margaret Moroff discussed other possible programs with Amy. Arlene Medeiros listed all of the program donations through March. Arlene Medeiros mentioned that Freetown offers a free food program on Tuesday nights.

XII. Public Input

Donna Benoit stated that the Flag box has collected 700 flags.

XIII. Notice of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be April 13, 2022 at 5:00pm in the Council on Aging and reconvene during the Board of Selectmen meeting. The May meeting was set for May 5, 2022 at 9:00am.

XIV. Adjourn

Wendy Cochrane motioned to adjourn; Arlene Medeiros seconded the motion. All voted in favor.