

**WESTON COUNCIL ON AGING**  
COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE  
Minutes – January 10, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am on the Weston COA Zoom application.

Present: Paul Foley, Kristen Frady, Vida Goldstein, John McCahan, Peter Mitsakos, Prather Palmer, Susan Pauker, Shirley Small-Rougeau, Dianne Sullivan, Susan Wagner, Teresa Young.

Absent:

1. John read the following statement:

*Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, “An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations”, authorizes municipal boards to hold fully remote or hybrid meetings through March of 2023. The law does not mandate or prohibit in-person meetings; instead, it allows the Town flexibility in that regard. As required, if a meeting is held fully remotely or as a hybrid meeting, adequate alternative access is provided through a video conferencing link included on the meeting agenda.*

2. The minutes of November 29, 2022 were approved as written.

3. There were no residents’ comments.

4. Old Business

**4a. Social Justice Working Group.** Shirley reminded the committee that a commemorative breakfast on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 16, with which the SJWG is heavily involved, will be held at the Weston United Methodist Church. The panel discussion that is planned will be excellent.

On Wednesday, January 18, the SJWG is co-sponsoring, with the Weston Public Library, a presentation and discussion of the book, *Chasing Me To My Grave, An Artist’s Memoir of the Jim Crow South*. It will be held at Town Hall at 7:00 pm. It is the story of the artist Winfred Rembert as told to Erin Kelly. Ms. Kelly as well as the Mr. Rembert’s daughter are expected to attend.

Sunday, June 11, will be Race Amity Day which the SJWG is sponsoring. It is hoped that members of the Chappaquiddick Wampanoag tribe will be participating in the event.

The events are expected to be recorded by the Weston Media Center.

**4.b. Panel on Housing Choices.** John reiterated that the panel on Housing Choices is scheduled for Wednesday, March 15 at 1:00 pm and that he will be moderating it. Participants, along with Dusty Reeder, a retired architect who is aging in place with his wife, will be Pam Swain, recently widowed who has sold her Weston house and moved to Mainstone in Wayland, and Harriet and Sheldon Jacobson who left their home of many years and moved in 2022 to Newbridge on the Charles. The event is scheduled for an hour and a half. The panelists will be asked to use half the time to describe the thinking they went through and the effort involved in implementing their plans. The remaining time will be devoted to answering questions from the Zoom audience. Peter suggested that the panelists include in their discussion the financial implications of what they did. Paul suggested that the program be shown at the COA for those without computers. Kristen noted that people could watch at the COA but would not be able to ask questions. For those with questions later, they could perhaps get in touch with panelists through the COA social worker if the panelists so agreed.

Peter inquired about the list of contractors that the COA has kept. Kristen responded that it was proving difficult to maintain that list. The Board is currently considering its continuation.

## 5. New Business

Susan Wagner related a recent hospitalization at Maryann Morse rehab facility and raised a concern about the constraints placed on patients in these institutions. Paul referred to the Ageing Lab at MIT and its innovations in keeping people independent. The committee acknowledged the timeliness and utility of the work being done at MIT. Paul will contact them to discuss the possibility of future presentations from them: an overview, current research, future directions.

John suggested the topics of memes and artificial intelligence (AI) as programming possibilities. He had had a recent email exchange and discussion with his daughter and other family members about memes during which chat-GPT was employed to respond to his queries. Paul noted the importance of social media in the lives of our grandchildren, especially Tik Tok, and its use to spread memes. There was a question of whether “memes” as a subject was too narrow, and perhaps a wider discussion of the role social media plays in the lives of our grandchildren would be better. There is also the question about memes, beyond the definition of the word, of trying to understand the cultural context in which they have meaning. Kristen noted the difficulty of finding someone who could provide an informed, perceptive and cogent description. Further discussion noted the rapidly changing nature of the subject. Paul will inquire of the Ageing Laboratory at MIT if they have anyone to recommend for either of these topics. Prather suggested and the committee agreed that we would consider how best to pursue these topics when we meet again.

## 6. Other Business

None was forthcoming.

## 7. Scheduling and administrative matters.

The next meeting was scheduled for 10:00 am on Tuesday February 21, 2023 by Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am.

Submitted by John McCahan