

**Weston Council on Aging  
Board Meeting Minutes  
January 16, 2020**

Present: Mignonne Murray (Director), Gerri Scoll (Chair), Jean MacQuiddy, Carol Ott, Wayne Johnson, Jane Donnelly, Alice Benson, Vida Goldstein (associate member), Lesley Fligor, Marge Ackerman, Tom Nicholson, Betsey Boyd

Absent: Prather Palmer, Teresa Young (Associate Member), Melissa Galton

The meeting was called to order by Gerri Scoll (Chair) at 8:35am.

There were no resident concerns presented. The minutes were reviewed and discussed. Tom moved that we accept the minutes; Carol seconded and all approved. The minutes passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Prather was unable to attend so we will review the report at the next board meeting.

**Director's Report:**

Mignonne said that the Town Annual Report is due in February. We will include a large amount of information on the needs assessment. The Needs Assessment was a major focus of 2019.

The new projector and microphone systems have been installed. The table microphone stands need a bit of an adjustment, but otherwise it is very sleek and working well.

The walking track at The Cambridge School will be available to Weston folks to walk around for exercise. This is an exciting new collaboration with the COA and The Cambridge School. It will be announced in the next newsletter. We are finalizing the details of signing in and keeping track of usage (MWTh from 9 – 11:30am). It has been suggested that we report it in the Weston Town Crier.

The Recreation Department will be raising the rate for badges but agreed to keep the senior rate the same. The Recreation Department is interested in allowing people to rent the COA Gathering room. Other areas of the community center are available for rent through the Recreation Department. The COA Board agreed to have a pilot program that would rent the COA Gathering room

A Chinese New Year party is already fully booked at 50 guests. This will be held on Wednesday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11:30 – 1:30pm.

There is a new hire at the Police Department (shared with Wellesley) to respond and follow up to mental health emergencies. We are still trying to work out a collaborative relationship with the social workers at the COA who are already working with many of the seniors in Weston to provide residents with the best possible services. We will continue to work hand in hand with the police department to keep services consistent.

**Committee Reports:**

Governance – Marge reported that there was not a meeting this month but she has a list of board members' information and assignments.

Awareness Report – Betsey was saying there will be more programming discussed for the spring. The winter fest was very successful.

Community Connections – Vida stated that at their meeting most of the discussion revolved around Phyllis' finance group who are going to try joining the Community Connections group. Their next programming will tackle the health system... how to navigate the health care system. This will be a series of programs.

FCOA – Betsey reported that the FCOA has taken in a substantial amount through the fall appeal and has earmarked \$8,000 for the COA. They have been very generous with helping with the renovations at the COA and will most likely give some donations toward a smaller wheelchair accessible vehicle. We are looking at the MV-1 that is smaller than the bus but can take wheelchairs and seating for a driver and 4 or 5 passengers. It will cost approximately \$35,000. Having this smaller vehicle option will help augment the transportation needs of the Council on Aging.

COA Housing – Alice reported that there will be a round table discussion in the spring spearheaded by the COA Housing Committee in partnership with the Affordable Housing Trust bringing together all groups in town that are concerned with housing.

Needs Assessment - Tom reported that on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30pm there will be a meeting with Town Manager, Leon Gaumond at the COA. This meeting will cover the feasibility studies for an assessment of what we can do with the space we have at the COA. This is concerning the campus and septic concerns. The COA wants to be a part of these discussions. Looking into options for our building is just a first step in a long process, letting us know what we can and cannot do.

Transportation – Gerri reported that the usage of taxi rides is greater than we thought, in particular a few “super users”. She handed out a report compiled by Melissa that shows the actual numbers for riders and rides taken. We are brainstorming ideas on how to make this program feasible for the funding available. The current provider is JFK Taxi. One option is to limit the number of coupons to 30 till the end of the fiscal year. We will manage expectations until a re-vamping of the program starting in July. Alice moved that a 30-coupon limit be put on the coupons. Carol seconded and all voted to approve. Residents can continue to use any coupons previously purchased. All coupons for the current program expire July 1, 2020. Residents have recently received a transportation survey in the mail from the Planning Committee inquiring about their patterns during commute times.

Springwell – Wayne reported that there was no December meeting at Springwell, so he distributed an interesting article from MIT for everyone to think about.

The meeting moved outside so the board members could view the MV-1 vehicle being considered for purchase. All the board members loved the vehicle and voted to purchase it. There being no further concerns, Gerri moved that we adjourn, Jean seconded and the meeting adjourned at 10:20am.

**The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:30am.**