

# Wayland Council on Aging

## MINUTES

APRIL 3, 2023

4:00 PM

ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Betsy Soule, Chair
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Mary Antes, Secretary
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	<u>COA Board Members Participating Remotely:</u> Mary Antes, Carol Glick (4:20), Frank Kennedy, Becky Patterson, Ellen Scult, Betsy Soule, Bill Sterling, Denise Yurkofsky (4:06), and Julie Secord <u>COA Board Members Absent:</u> <u>Guests: Georgie, the Cat, Patterson</u>
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	

## Agenda Topics: Meeting Convened at 4:02pm

### CALL TO ORDER

BETSY SOULE

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Betsy called the meeting to order at 4:02pm by roll call and reviewed the agenda.
<b>ACTION</b>	

### COA/COMMUNITY CENTER

BILL STERLING

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Bill reported that the Planning Board has approved only 60 parking place, not the 100 requested. Julie and her staff have put together a chart illustrating the need for 100 parking spaces. The great hall alone seats 200 people. While there is no money for a consultant, there will be a traffic study of the area that will take four to six weeks to complete. The PB has 90 days to make a decision on the project, unless the applicant agrees to an extension. The PMBC had a good meeting, listening to the abutters, who went away happy.</p> <p>There seems to be general agreement that parking in the shopping center and crossing Andrew Avenue to attend events in the Senior Center is dangerous. Julie reported that tenants living above the stores do not have dedicated parking spaces, which means they sometimes have to park behind Ace Hardware.</p> <p>Bill estimates a 30 day delay in releasing the RFP could cost \$25,000. He is concerned that bids may not go out until July. The SB pulled the Town Meeting warrant article requesting additional funds. The Town Manager believes he can come up with as much as \$500,000 if needed.</p> <p>Sudbury expects to be in their new building by November. Despite a 40,000 square foot facility, there will be no room for Meals on Wheels preparation. They plan to offer congregate meals. Our staff is looking into whether we can bring in-house the preparation of the meals for Wayland residents. It will require approval by the Board of Health and licensing by the food inspector.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	

### MINUTES

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The minutes of March 6, 2023 were reviewed.
<b>ACTION</b>	It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of March 6, 2023 (Kennedy/Patterson). (Antes, Glick, Kennedy, Patterson, Scult, Sterling, Yurkofsky: 7 Yays)

### SENIOR TAX RELIEF

JULIE SECORD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The March meeting was very good; it was attended by Carol Martin, SB liaison. The committee looked at a Westford program and found it very involved and difficult to administer. Governor Healey has recommended doubling the circuit breaker amount. She is also looking at the tax deferral program; the interest rate is low until the home owner dies at which point the interest rate climbs to 16 percent.
<b>ACTION</b>	

**FRIENDS OF THE COA**

MARY ANTES

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Members are personalizing fundraising letters that will be mailed to those who have contributed regularly to the Friends in the past. Julie has received a number of envelopes to give to the treasurer at tomorrow's meeting.
<b>ACTION</b>	

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

JULIE SECORD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>The town has still not hired a department assistant. The job description is for 28 hour position, which means there is still one day without department assistant coverage. If the work week is increased to 35 hours, the job will need to be posted again. There is more than enough work for the outreach worker to increase that position to full time.</p> <p>There is no town social worker so all of the requests for help go to the COA outreach worker. The Youth and Family Services department requires those seeking help to have a child in the schools. Julie has started having discussion with the Town Manager (TM) on this issue, especially now that additional housing developments are coming, like the proposed St. Ann senior housing project. (60 units of senior housing on the St. Ann's parcel between the vestry and Windy Hill. The developer has been requested to consider a group home for adults with disabilities as a separate facility or as a wing of the proposed facility.) (Other housing proposals include Mill Creek at the former Whole Foods Plaza, MBTA adjacent Communities requirement, and the Monster, the former Mahoney property.)</p> <p>Transportation funding continues to be a challenge since grants can be depleted very quickly when trips to Boston can cost \$200 a trip. The staff is looking for ways to spread the money around broadly. One way is to restrict the number of one-way trips. Another is to work to develop a community transit grant with Sudbury. Those going for dialysis often have early morning appointments (5am) that require taxi rides. Some people don't want to ask family members for transportation. The staff is also thinking about starting a volunteer system again. The escort service is amazingly helpful.</p> <p>AARP ends next week; the extraordinary team served around 140 people. The housing series is going very well. Between 55 and 60 attend with 12 to 15 others on the wait list. At the same time another 20 people are taking an aerobics class. (That is 80 parking spaces.) Frank pointed out that people have no idea how many things are going on in the COA that justify the parking requirement request.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	

**ADJOURNMENT**

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The next meeting will be Tuesday, May 9 <sup>th</sup> at 4pm via Zoom.
<b>ACTION</b>	It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted by roll call to adjourn the meeting (Sterling/Patterson). (Antes, Glick, Kennedy, Patterson, Scult, Sterling, Yurkofsky: 7 Yays) The meeting was adjourned at 4:58pm.

Materials handed out at the meeting:

Agenda

Minutes of March 6, 2023