

**RECEIVED**

By KWilber/Assistant Town Clerk at 2:59 pm, Mar 18, 2024

**Meeting of the Northborough Council on Aging  
January 9, 2024 – 5:30PM – Northborough Senior Center**

*As the hub for all aspects of healthy aging, the mission of the Northborough Council on Aging/Senior Center is to enrich and enhance the lives of older adults.*

**Call to Order:** A meeting of the Council on Aging of the Town of Northborough was called to order at 5:30 PM by Paula Moore, Chair with the following also present:

Fran Bakstran, Member

Mitch Cohen, Chair, Select Board

Alli DellaRovere, Member

Ron Doucett, Friends

Linda Cragin, Member

Nick Cappello, Friends

Elizabeth Nasser, Member

Kendra Faldetta, Director

The following COA members were not present: Adrienne Cost, Theresa Lee, Virginia Simms George, Jerry Anderson, and Joan Frank, School Committee rep.

**1. Introductions:** Tim McInerney, the town's new manager and Diane Wackell, assistant manager were introduced. Kendra shared that Tim has visited more in his first four weeks than any manager she has worked with.

**2. Approval of the Minutes:**

The minutes for the November 2023 meeting were approved. There was no meeting in December.

**3. Friends Report:**

Ron provided the Friend's report. There was no meeting in December. The Country Fair was very successful with the highest attendance ever and very pleased vendors. The Annual Appeal is underway with 75% of the goal of raising \$20,000 achieved. The Calendar Raffle is also underway. The Friends spent \$33,000 last year, very similar to the prior year. The mailing of the Northboro Times is 60% of this support. Funding is also provided to support activities and new tables were purchased for the lobby. Linda is exploring new chair tips and may ask the Friends for assistance as the center has over 300 chairs.

**4. Director's Report:**

Kendra provided an extensive and visual report of the activities during November and December; going forward she will also distribute these electronically so Mitch can share with the Selectboard.

Kendra also provided an impressive summary for the 2023 calendar year: nearly 20,000 people "swiped in" (19,779) to the senior center; this is probably a 20-30% undercount of actual visits. Outreach (Jocelyn) spent 1,697 hours serving 418 different individuals and the SHINE counselors had 386 appointments regarding insurance needs. The van drivers drove 3,169 trips and volunteers logged 2,575.80 hours of work. Twelve residents participated in the Senior Tax Work Off. The Senior Center provided 3,104 programs – excluding the Bistro 119 programs.

After the issue in November with the water heaters, Kendra had to close the center for two weeks due to lack of heat. Shawn, the facilities manager, was very helpful. Mitch added that as one of the town's two retail sites (e.g., open to the public like the library), addressing the heat was important. While the center was closed, all staff continued to provide services – including cancelling activities as needed. Staff worked remotely and on-site for limited times.

The snow cancellation policy was also discussed as well as the proposed reduction in the state formula grant.

**5. WRTA:**

The vans will continue to be free until July 1<sup>st</sup>. A new driver, working one day a week, has been hired.

**6. Master Plan**

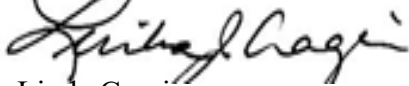
Fran reported that the -Downtown Revitalization Plan will be presented to the Select Board on January 18<sup>th</sup> and the next step is for the Selectboard to decide which steps will be prioritized. The Master Plan Implementation Committee will continue to provide oversight of the project as there is much interest in this project moving along. There will also be a meeting at the Library on the 17<sup>th</sup> about the Fire Station building project.

**Note: Springwell (formerly Bay Path) was taken off the agenda as there is no reporting mechanism.**

**7. Old/New Business and Community Awareness:**

The area COA directors met in December and there is no progress in communication and support for the town's residents from Springwell. Linda proposed, and it was agreed, that the Paula as chair, and Linda as clerk, on behalf of the board will invite Springwell's director to the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting for an update.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35pm.



Linda Cragin