

**Meeting of the Northborough Council on Aging
May 14, 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 Linda Cragin, stepping in for the Chair; Virginia George than ran the meeting for Linda. The following were also present:

Theresa Lee, Member

Virginia George, Member

Sue Harvey, Member

Ron Doucett, Friends

Henry Squillante, Friends

Nick Cappello, Friends

Kendra Faldetta, Director

Paula Moore, guest

The following COA members were not present: Fran Bakstran, Elizabeth Nasser, Jerry Anderson, Mitch Cohen, Chair, Select Board, Joan Frank, School Committee rep. Paula Moore's term has expired, and she will not renew as she is moving out of town. New officers will need to be elected at the next meeting. Introductions were made to welcome Sue Harvey.

At Town Meeting, Virginia was recognized for receiving the Black Excellence Award by the Massachusetts legislature's Black and Latino Caucus. She was congratulated! Vicki Killeen, our kitchen manager was also congratulated for receiving one of five Thomas S Green awards for municipal employees by Worcester Regional Research Bureau.

1. Minutes: The April 2024 meeting minutes were approved. As this was Paula's last meeting, she was thanked for her service.

2. Friends Report: Ron provided the Friend's report. The Annual Meeting is planned for the 28th at 11am, a fundraiser in September is planned at The Cellar and the June 18th doo-wop event, starring Tony Funches, the lead singer for the Platters who also sang with the Drifters, Coasters and Shirelles singing groups has sold out..

3. Director's Report: Kendra reviewed her report. During April there were 200.83 volunteer hours, 2136 individuals came in for various appointments or activities and 77 people were served by outreach or the nurse. The vans provided 309 rides. She reviewed various events including her own session on the Azores, a very successful Kentucky Derby, cooking sushi with Rose, and a very successful, a presentation on the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum heist and a very successful Mother's Day flowers event with remaining flowers delivered to Coleman House. Future plans include a Root Beer Float Day in honor of Agnes Sagarien supported by her family, Make Your Own Trail Mix for Father's Day, an autism awareness session, and a Family Fun Day with the police focused on bike safety.

4. Springwell Report:

Kendra had another meeting with the Springwell president/CEO Trish Smith. She now has a contact list of Springwell employees/case managers and they have been asked to update their voice mail message to let callers know how long it will take them to respond. Springwell has hired seven case managers to serve the "boro's" region; when the new case managers are oriented, they will be introduced to the role of the Senior Center. Springwell has also added a new homemaker vendor which should help with service delivery though those waiting for "heavy chore" will need to wait the longest as filling this type of work is difficult. Springwell has


been asked to update their consent form so information can be shared with the Senior Center. They are exploring the flexibility of Title IIIB funding. Kendra is also informing MCOA of the concerns. The next meeting will be August 26th.

5. WRTA: The board voted for transportation to be free until July 2025.

6. Master Plan: Paula provided a report for Fran outlining several priorities including socialization, easy access, and affordable housing.

7. Old/New Business and Community Awareness: Jocelyn wanted people to be aware of the Medicare buy-in plan for those on MassHealth. While there is income requirements, there are no assets limits. Kendra also shared that the Senior Center coordinates the Senior Workoff program for the town. There are no income or assets limitations and currently there are 22 volunteers. She will do a report on June 5th for the Selectboard.

The meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Cragin", is written over a horizontal line.

Linda Cragin