

**Meeting of the Northborough Council on Aging
June 11, 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; Fran Bakstran ran the meeting for Linda. The following were also present:

Theresa Lee, Member	Henry Squillante, Friends
Virginia George, Member	Nick Cappello, Friends
Elizabeth Nasser, Member	Kendra Faldetta, Director
Sue Harvey, Member	Vicki Johnson, guest
Ron Doucett, Friends	

The following COA members were not present: Jerry Anderson, Mitch Cohen, Chair, Select Board, Joan Frank, School Committee rep. Vicki Johnson was introduced as a prospective member awaiting an interview with the Select Board Interview Sub-committee.

1. Election of Officers:

- Fran asked for nominations for the Chair. Upon motion made (Theresa) and seconded (Virginia), it was **voted unanimously** for Fran Bakstran to serve as the Chair.
- Fran asked for nominations for the Vice Chair. Upon motion made (Theresa) and seconded (Liz), it was **voted unanimously** for Virginia George to serve as the Vice Chair.
- Fran asked for nominations for the Secretary. Upon motion made (Virginia) and seconded (Theresa), it was **voted unanimously** for Linda Cragin to serve as the Secretary.

2. Minutes: The May 2024 meeting minutes were approved.

3. Friends Report: Ron and Nick provided the Friend's report. The Annual Meeting was very successful. A fundraiser in September is planned at The Cellar (no confirmed date yet). The June 18th doo-wop event, starring Tony Funches, has sold out. A representative from the Marlboro Friends group came to learn what the Friends do in Northborough. After a good discussion, he asked to join the Northborough Friends! In CY23, the Friends provided \$23,000 in support to the Senior Center; so far this year, the support has been \$18,000. Much of this is to support the Northboro Times; support has also been provided for events and to purchase items like the tables which are heavy and now in need of repair due to so much use (Kendra almost got hurt).

4. Director's Report: Kendra reviewed her report. Participation continues to grow – all measures were higher than from April. During May there were 234.43 volunteer hours, 2401 individuals came in for various appointments or activities and 82 people were served by outreach or the nurse. The vans provided 336 rides.

Vickie Killeen was celebrated for winning the Thomas S. Green award for municipal employees. All events have been very successful with many at capacity; a session on scams with the Police Department and Avidia Bank may need to be repeated as the scams keep shifting. Bi-weekly Friday Breakfasts with a town leader will be held – Andy Dowd, Town Clerk, Fire Chief Parenti, Police Chief Griffin, Health & Human Services Director Caruso, Selectboard Chair Mitch Cohen

and Town Administrator Tim McInerney. Other planned sessions include a 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 and the Uhlman's ice cream truck. In July and August, the Olympics will be a theme of several events.

The Outreach page in the Northborough Times was commended – the services are important. It was suggested that each issue should be sent to Springwell to distribute among their staff responsible for services in the Town. Kendra will look into this.

Kendra hopes to share information about Jocelyn's work in Outreach each month with the Board. This month, for example, a consumer could not get an oil delivery due to a leaking oil tank. Jocelyn identified the state funded SMOC Heartwap program that could assist her, but she needed to be approved for fuel assistance first, with the last possible application date of June 14th. She was approved and had the oil tank replaced at no cost.

Jocelyn also assisted three consumers with successful applications to the Medicare Savings Plan/Buy in program which assists with payment for Medicare Part B monthly premium via MassHealth. Many are not aware of the program and the reduced eligibility requirements. Jocelyn also made three referrals to Day Break, the adult day program and an additional caller who needed more services.

Later in the week, the Senior Center will participate in the Be Well Northborough beginning of summer celebration. Kendra shared her idea to engage young people about ageism and diversity using a build a Lego person idea representing different ages, races, abilities. The Lego person can be safely stored in a bag that says: "My new Lego figure is unique and special just like me." on one side, and "My age does not define my worth." on the other side. There will also be bookmarks to color with a crayon packet – "Everyone is Awesome" and "Diversity doesn't look like anyone; it looks like everyone." Her creativity was infectious!

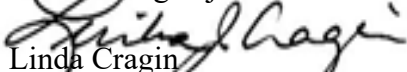
5. Springwell Report: No report.

6. WRTA: No new news.

7. Master Plan: Fran provided an update. The Master Plan Committee is a conduit to other town boards and committees. For example, there is concern about the safety of the dams in town and the Conservation Committee is reviewing the issue. The Master Plan is focused on the downtown area, and, for example, ARPA funding is supporting the new flowerpots.

8. Old/New Business and Community Awareness: Fran brought up that the last Strategic Plan was completed in 2020, before the pandemic, and while activities and participation have grown, staffing has not – indeed, we lost a position during the pandemic. With Kendra's arrival and leadership, and as we approach our 15th anniversary, we need to complete a thorough review of our status and needs. It was discussed that the Board will review the plan during the next meetings. Additional information will be developed including a summary of the source of funding (Kendra) and comparison to other towns (Henry). Linda will share the 2020 Strategic Plan with the next COA meeting notice.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.


Linda Cragin