

Millbury COA
Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2023
7:33 am

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MILLBURY, MASS

Members In Attendance: Steve Walinsky, Stuart Mulhane, Ronald Marlborough, Ginny Picking, Nancy Pratt, Laurie Corkery, Kevin Higginbottom Laurie Keefe, Director Joshua Ryan Program Administrator, Karyn Clark, Interim Town Manager.

MINUTES: Motion to accept minutes for July 20,2023 and September 20,2023 by Ronald Malborough seconded by Stewart Mulhane.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY: None

CORRESPONDENCE: none

ACTING TOWN MANAGER REMARKS: Karyn Clark advised the board that her and Laurie met with town council regarding the Friends Group as discussed in the last meeting. Karyn read the letter that town council provided. Per town council Senior Center staff or COA board member can solicit things from the friends or other businesses. Karyn advises the board that they should have a meeting with the Friends Group and see where they are and how they plan to contribute to the Senior Center.

DIRECTORS REPORT: Ms. Keefe has informed the board that herself, Josh, and Karyn met with the new WRTA CEO Josh Rickman. The meeting was so Josh Rickman could introduce himself. Worcester Community Action Council was at the Senior Center on October 10th. The processed 62 fuel renewal applications. They left packets at the Senior Center, and we will begin new applications in November.

The Lion's Club is still holding their monthly meeting at the Senior Center the first Monday of every month. Briarly reached out to use the Senior Center on November 30th for their yearly meeting.

We will be hosting a Thanksgiving lunch on Tuesday, November 21st. Lunch will be served by the Millbury staff. We will be making 30 Thanksgiving baskets for families that need extra help for Thanksgiving.

The Halloween potluck will be held on October 31st.

There will be a breakfast on November 2nd in honor of Veterans Day. The VSO will be here to speak about what they offer the veteran residents of Millbury.

The drug take back day is schedule for November 6th from 10-12 with police officer Sean Maynard. There will be coffee and pastries.

We will be participating in the Chain of Lights again this year. H&H Dance Company will be here that day at 1PM to perform.

The food pantry has been very busy, and we anticipate it will get even busier. Care one has dropped off two large donations of personal hygiene products. People in Millbury have been very generous with donating to the food pantry.

The flu clinic was a success, we gave over 60 flu shots. We have another clinic scheduled for November 8th from 3PM-6PM.

We met with Andrew Lowe from CMRPC regarding the roof insulation project. The RFP will be out by the end of the year.

Josh and Laurie are currently working on 3 grants.

Josh was able to work with Blackstone Valley Tourism Council to get the train to stop at the Millbury Senior Center on its way to Putnam Connecticut on October 28th.

Laurie and Josh attended the ESWA 49th annual meeting where our volunteer Edna Lapan was recognized not only for her 15 years with ESWA but she was also named volunteer of the year. She has been volunteering at the Senior Center for 25 years!

Laurie advised the board that October, November, and December is the busiest time of the year for the Senior Center. There are a lot of programs as well of a lot of people coming in for applications.

STANDING REPORTS

- A. Budget and Finance – Ms. Keefe has given the board copies of Senior Center revolving accounts as requested. Ms. Keefe advises the board money from the Formula Grant can be used for anything. There are no longer restrictions on how the money needs to be spent. She also advises the board you no longer have to use all the money by the end of the year anymore.
- B. PERSONNEL: Laurie states all office staff remain the same. The van driver that was recently hired is no longer working for us due to health reasons.
- C. Board Membership- There are no open seats at this time.
- D. Legislation affecting Seniors: none.
- E. Senior Center Usage- The Lions Club will be using the Senior Center on the first Monday of every month to hold their monthly meetings. Briarly has requested to use the Senior Center on November 30th to host their yearly meeting.
- F. Monthly report of program participation- Programs are continuing to grow. There were 374 unduplicated swipes.
- G. Building Maintenance/ Equipment- Emergency lighting and exit signs have been updated to LED lights. We are waiting for the fire chief to get back to us with a date to test the fire alarm systems.
- H. Friends of the Millbury Seniors Report: attached.
- I. Elder Services of Worcester Area/ Nutrition Program: 90+ meals are going out a day for meals on wheels.
- J. Intergenerational Programs: Laurie Corkery heard about a new program. She is going to get more info and report at the next meeting.

- K. Elder Community Service Program: This program is now being called the tax work off program. Veterans can also do this program now. The new Program starts November 1st. Participants will now get an abatement on their January tax bill.
- L. Memory Café: Goretti's has donated pumpkins for the October memory café. Josh, Laurie, and Julie are also working on getting a grant to fund programs for memory café.
- M. Annual Obligations: The annual report for the formula grant has been submitted. Laurie will provide the board with a copy for the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Monthly Newsletter distribution- There were some questions on how the newsletter was paid for. Laurie advised the board that she uses Formula grant to pay for the newsletters.
- 2. Plaque identifying- The plaques on the benches outside the Senior Center are old and weathered and cannot be read anymore. Ginny and Nancy have agreed to look into getting them replaced.
- 3. New Friday hours- The Senior Center is now open until 2 on Fridays. There has not been much activity at the Senior Center after 12. We will continue to monitor how many people come in on Fridays.

OLD BUSINESS: This will be on the next agenda. The meeting had to be adjourned due to time and having a quorum.

Next meeting is November 15th.

Steve Walinsky

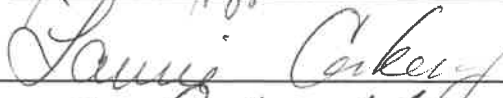


Stuart Mulhane

Kevin Higginbottom



Laurie Corkery



Ronald Marlborough



Ginny Picking

Nancy Pratt



Respectfully submitted:

Joshua Ryan, Program Administrator