



APPROVED

Town of Newbury Council on Aging  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: September 18, 2023

**Members in attendance:** Damon Jespersen, Joyce Machiros, John Ferrara, Chuck Bear, Susan Grillo, Chris Howe, Gerry DiMaio, Jeanine Cunningham

**Other attendees:** Cindy Currier

Motion to open the meeting made by Chuck Bear, seconded by Joyce Machiros.  
Unanimous approval.

**Audience:** Bill DiMaio (Select Board Member), Leslie Matthews (Select Board Member), No comments.

Motion to approve Minutes of August 28, 2023 meeting made by Joyce Machiros, seconded by Chuck Bear. Unanimous approval.

**Discussion:**

Damon queried COA members about participation in COA events and encouraged all to stay involved. Most members were either attending some events or recommending services to seniors in need. John was particularly involved in Veterans affairs and stressed importance of these events and expanding to include women as well. Gerry is very involved and attends many COA events and social gatherings. COA has received donation of pool table and ping pong table, but we need space to put these up. There is also a strong interest for indoor pickleball (outdoor is ending end of November), but a site has not been identified for this activity.

**Review of COA Informational Flyer:**

Damon introduced discussion on review of COA informational flyer to be included in February 1 tax bill. Cindy presented 2 different revised drafts of the flyer, which were discussed and further revised. Cindy will revise and present one version of the flyer, which will be finalized and voted on at next meeting. Note: All agreed the fold should be such that the top 3<sup>rd</sup> print side out is important for the mailing to be eye-catching to the readers.

**Chairperson's Report**

Re: site selection subcommittee -- Damon reported that anyone can participate on multiple boards/committees EXCEPT for Select Board members and Financial Committee members. He suggested we invite someone from Capital Planning (in lieu of FinCom), someone from the public, and someone from the COA voting members. More discussion at next COA meeting.

Pickleball indoors is highly desired. Maybe we can collaborate with Ipswich YMCA, Tennis Club of Newburyport, Newburyport COA, or possibly use space at Triton or Governors Academy. Chuck suggested there may be grant money available to pay for space. Cindy pointed out that we would need staff if offsite. She said we still have the old COA space at NES and maybe we could convert that, but staffing is an issue.

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**Director's Report:**

- Upcoming programs:
  - Tuesday, 9/19 The Clutter Queen (light dinner at 4:30pm; presentation at 5:30pm). Swedish Death Cleaning is a Scandinavian method of organizing that focuses on decluttering your home before you pass on in an effort to lessen the burden on your grieving loved ones. It ensures you are surrounded by items you love, want, and need (goodbye college textbooks, clothes that do not fit, mystery cables and box of dead batteries!). There is a focus on donating goods that can be used by others.
  - Pickleball has been extended through the end of November (per the request of the pickleballers). Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11am. There is no instruction at this point, but if you are a beginner, come on Thursdays and the others will help you learn!
  - Game Night: Halloween Night 10/31 (wear a costume and be entered to win a door prize) and 11/28. Dinner and dessert will be served.
  - Craft Fair with our knitting group and drawing class: during November's Traveling Chef (11/2 from 11am-2pm).
  - Started a Tech Class (with Kevin Figueroa of KevTech Services). Reviewed basics of iPhone and iPad. Next class on Monday, 11/6 at 2pm will discuss staying organized with the iPhone and iPad...learning to take notes, create to-do lists, manage calendar events, and how to use Siri, the digital assistant.
  - Veterans Lunch: Thursday, 11/9 @ 12pm at PITA Hall. The Rusty Can will cater lunch. MUST REGISTER!
  - Wednesday, 11/15 Thanksgiving Luncheon at PITA Hall. Doors open at 12pm; dinner will be served at 12:30pm. Van will be available for rides. MUST REGISTER!
- Looking into ping pong; requested Recreation Committee add this to their next meeting agenda. Possibility of putting two ping pong tables at the Field House. If not, COA will look to purchase them and have the program in our location at NES.
- October/November newsletter being sent to the printer today. Will need volunteers to help with stuffing and folding when they arrive.
- Office closed: Monday, 10/9 (Columbus Day) and Thursday, 11/23 (Thanksgiving).
- Always in need of NEET volunteers!
- In the references phase of hiring process for Outreach position.

**New Business: NONE**

Motion to establish October 16, 2023 as the next meeting made by Joyce Machiros, seconded by John Ferrara. Unanimous approval.

Motion to adjourn by Chuck Bear, seconded by Joyce Machiros. Unanimous approval.