



Approved 4/22/2024

Town of Newbury Council on Aging  
Meeting Minutes  
Date: Mar 18, 2024

**Members in attendance:** Damon Jespersen, Chris Howe, Gerry DiMaio, Chuck Bear, Susan Grillo, Joyce Machiros, Josephine Antico, John Ferrara (Quorum present). **Absent:** Jeanine Cunningham.

**Other attendees:** Cindy Currier

Motion to open the meeting made by Chuck Bear, second by Gerry DeMaio.  
Unanimous approval.

**Audience:** Bill DiMaio of Newbury Select Board – as a senior citizen COA participant, Bill gave high praise to Cindy and her team for the St. Patrick’s Day luncheon held at PITA Hall on 3/12. The event was “sold out” and there was a lot of good energy flowing throughout the celebration. Six new Friends of the COA attended, introduced themselves and explained who the Friends are and what they do. The Friends invited everyone to join and get involved or contribute to the donation basket to help fund COA activities. They collected about \$235 from enthusiastic event attendees. Bill got a card of immense gratitude for the Newbury COA from David Perez (son of Lucy Perez and brother of Helen Carrigan and her husband Jim – all new Friends members).

**Minutes:**

Motion to approve minutes of Jan 22, 2024 by John Ferrara, seconded by Gerry DiMaio.  
Unanimous approval.

Motion to approve minutes of Feb 26, 2024 by Chuck Bear, seconded by Susan Grillo.  
Unanimous approval.

**Chairperson’s Report:** Work is progressing on the Site Selection by the sub-committee.

**Director’s Report:**

- Review of programs:
  - St. Patrick’s Day party was a great success. 55 seniors attended; corned beef and cabbage with potatoes, carrots, and turnips. Live Irish music. Many thanks to our volunteers who helped us with set-up, serving, clean up and breakdown:
    - Dennis Kondracki
    - Tina Kennedy
    - Jeanine Cunningham
    - Gerry DiMaio
    - Helen and Jim Carrigan
    - Jeanette Isabella

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- This is something that I will also address in the Ad Hoc Committee meeting today – having a major event away from home is a lot of work. We bring everything with us

(salt and pepper shakers; coffee urns and all the coffee paraphernalia; tablecloths; water bottles; extra drinks - punch ingredients and something to put it in; table numbers; decorations; centerpieces; door prizes; giveaways; etc. etc.). We load up our cars; unpack at PITA Hall; have the event; pack up our cars; unload at Kent Way. Events like this, while we feel are very beneficial to our seniors (especially for the social aspect) and are our most popular/most well-attended events, they take a lot to put together. We are also outgrowing PITA Hall. We have to limit our participation to 56 people. While the room can accommodate more people, limiting to this # allows people with assistive devices to maneuver around the room; it allows staff and volunteers the room to serve; and it allows room for our live entertainment. We had 10 people on our wait list for this St. Patrick's Day party. We do not like to tell anyone they cannot attend, but the space constraints make it impossible to accommodate everyone at this point.

- Upcoming programs:
  - A COA volunteers appreciation luncheon will be held at Starboard Galley on April 17<sup>th</sup>. Invitations have been sent to volunteers who have helped the COA over the past year.
  - Seen Your Feet –Next clinic is March 27<sup>th</sup> from 9am-1pm. Reservations are required. Cost is \$30 paid directly to Barbara Ullman via cash or check only.
  - Gordon College Center for Balance: Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at 10am
  - Ping Pong: Tuesdays & Thursdays TIME CHANGE 10a-12p at the Field House.
  - Game Night Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm. Dinner and dessert will be served (Chinese Food – were going to celebrate the Lunar New Year in February but we cancelled due to the snowstorm that wasn't).
  - Watercolor Class with Bill Duke: Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> 10a-1p. \$20 cash paid directly to Bill.
  - Exploring Creativity in Watercolor with Peggy Poppe: Four week class is going very well. Kathy has been coordinating with Peggy for the next round of classes. Cost: \$48 paid directly to Peggy for all four classes and registration is required.
  - Traveling Chef: Thursday, March 21<sup>st</sup> (breakfast for lunch – ham and cheese omelet; French toast sticks; bacon; roasted potatoes; fruit salad). We celebrate birthdays every Traveling Chef meal with cake or cupcakes...maybe ice cream cake this month!
  - AARP Tax Aide today.
  - A Poetry Workshop is coming in April. Check the newsletter for more details.
  - April 17<sup>th</sup> – Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon (invitations will be sent out to our volunteers)
  - April 30<sup>th</sup> at 10am – Breakfast with the Chiefs
  - May 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am – Coffee with a Cop @ NPD

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- May 15<sup>th</sup> – CPR/AED/basic First Aid class with Curtis Walton, Newbury Fire Fighter and EMS Coordinator (no certification...informational only)
- Newsletter will be sent to the printer this week; will be happy for any volunteers to join us to help us stuff and fold
- SHINE counselor is available year-round to talk about options. Call us to connect with Max!
- Always in need of NEET volunteers!

**Update on Friends of the Newbury Council on Aging**

Cindy Currier gave the following update:

There are several new Friends members who will attend COA events/activities and introduce themselves to create awareness.

The fundraising group is working on 50/50 raffles (once they get a permit to do so); also a monthly drawing: anyone participating in a COA event or activity will automatically get their name entered for the drawing.

Discussions are in progress to organize a community-wide yard sale in 2025.

Fundraising proceeds and monetary donations will help replenish the Friends' account, which goes directly to the Newbury COA for holiday luncheons and other activities as needed.

The Friends meet at the COA office on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. All are welcome.

**New Business: None**

Motion to establish April 22, 2024 as the next meeting made by Chuck Bear; seconded by Joyce Machiros. Unanimous approval.

Motion to adjourn made by Chuck Bear, seconded by Gerry DiMaio. Unanimous approval.