



Town of Fairhaven Council on Aging

Fairhaven Council on Aging • 229 Huttleston Ave, Fairhaven, MA 02719
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Fairhaven Council on Aging • Board Meeting Minutes September 12, 2022

Present: Martha Reed, Jack Oliveira, Robert Ryan, Susan Oiestad, Lee Allaire, Carol Burt, Joan Mello

- 1.) **The meeting was legally posted on Monday September 7, 2022**
- 2.) **The meeting was called to order by Martha Reed at 9:10 am.**
- 3.) **Robert Ryan motioned to accept the July 11, 2022 minutes, seconded by Jack Oliveira.**

Financial Report:

COA Budget total: \$199,944.00

July & August 2022 Expenditures: \$24,195.37

Martha Reed expressed everything has been running smoothly with the exception of the Gasoline Budget. We have used 40% of our allotment for the year. She has been in contact with Town Hall and all departments are experiencing the same. There will an article at the Special Town Meeting on November 15th to raise the line item across the board for the Town. The COA does not need to submit an article. There will be 2 articles the COA submitted for Building Repairs and Maintenance as well as Office Supplies. There were zero dollars allotted for Office Supplies, Martha has placed an article for \$500 for the Office Supplies budget. The COA building HVAC system has needed significant repairs. There will also be a preventative maintenance plan added due to the filters that were installed two years ago were not changed. Due to the cost of the repairs, the budget for Building Repairs and Maintenance has been exhausted. An article has been submitted in the amount of \$4000 to cover the repairs as well as the preventative maintenance contract.

Old Business:

1. **Election of Officers:** Carol Burt made a motion to keep the Board as they are, Jack Oliveira Seconded.
2. **Summer Programs:** Martha Reed said the summer programs went really well. There were 4 summer concerts as well as, intergenerational Pen Pals. People are starting to come back to the COA.
3. **Veterans Services update:** The Veterans Services here has increased the participation in events. There are a lot of clients that qualify for COA and services.

New Business:

1. **Fall and Winter Programs:** There will be a play called "The Uncommon Lunch" upcoming on the 21st of September. Currently in the process of booking more entertainment for the Fall/Winter holidays parties, and for the Memory Café.

2. **Memory Café :** Will begin October 27th and it is slated to be the last Thursday of the month from 12-2pm. Only exception will be November due to Thanksgiving and it will be the week before.
3. **Social Day:** Currently in the process of reopening. Martha has reached out to Coastline and GNBVT to have some aids for the program. She will have more information over the next few weeks.

Director's Report

1. **Senior Center/Program Utilization:**
 July 2022: 441 unduplicated seniors August 2022: 523 unduplicated
 There were 2,432 "swipes" for events over the last 2 months. All elder attorney and foot care appointments were utilized in July and August. Both SHINE counselors were extremely busy, and are currently gearing up for Open Enrollment which begins in October.
2. **Transportation Utilization:** 378 Rides were provided to 109 seniors in July and August.
3. **Community Needs:** The most significant community needs in the last two months remain housing and food security. 10 SNAP Applications were submitted and the CSFP Program is currently 43 Elder Households. FCOA was able to distribute Farmer's Market Coupons to 87 Fairhaven Seniors, including all persons who were originally wait listed.
4. **In-person events:** Both Single Senior Supper Clubs were well attended. The LGBTQ Senior Supper Clubs were attended by 24 persons in each month. The Summer Music Series continued with performances by Beth Butts the Bag Piper with over 30 persons in attendance in July and approximately 25 attended the Matt York performance. The most attended event was the Veteran's Grand Opening Welcome Luncheon on August 10, 2022: Over 80 people attended, including many town and state officials and members of the Fairhaven Veterans and Senior community.
5. **Memory Café:** Beginning in October, the FCOA will be hosting a Memory Café from Noon to 2:00 PM. The Memory Café will be held on the last Thursday of each month, with the exception of November. The goal is to bring together persons who have memory issues and their caregivers a time for fellowship and respite in a safe environment. John Hinds from St. Mary's Church has graciously agreed to cover the cost of the meals for the first Memory Café in October.
6. **Gardens:** The Lion's Club Gardens yielded many vegetables over the summer, which were distributed to Senior Center Guests. We are extremely grateful to the Fairhaven Lion's Club for the gift of these gardens. They will be winterizing the gardens sometime in October and Peter DeTerra will be donating compost and other soil to help increase the nutrients for next year's gardens.

7. **MArtap Grant:** The MArtap Grant allowed the COA to replace all 6 tires on Van #5, as well as get an alignment. Due to the increased cost of the materials, the FCOA was responsible for \$222.30 of the \$1,050.30, while MArtap paid \$828
8. **Pen Pal's Program:** 21 Children from the CHAMPS program at the Woods School participated in this year's program, which culminated with an Ice Cream Social on August 10th. Positive feedback from the children and the seniors indicates that this program should be repeated again next year. Will consider starting the program earlier and run it for 4 weeks. Will also set the date for the Ice Cream Social ahead of time.
9. **Social Day:** There are now over 20 persons who have expressed an interest in attending the Social Day program. At this level of interest, it is now financially viable to re-open. Discussion with Coastline, Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School, have started and the goal is to bring Social Day back sometime in November.
10. **Fall and Winter Activities:** We have begun to build the activities and events calendar for the Fall and early Winter seasons. New activities will include arts and craft activities, wellness practitioners (Reiki, Chair Massage, PT evaluations), a community Thanksgiving Dinner, and a Holiday Party.

Next Board of Directors Meeting

The next board meeting will take place on TUESDAY October 11, 2022 at 9:00am. It will be on a Tuesday due to the Monday Holiday.

Motion to adjourn made by Lee Allaire second by Jack Oliveira.

The meeting was adjourned 9:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted,
Jocelyn Bowers
Principal Office Assistant
Fairhaven COA