

**Meeting of the Northborough Council on Aging
February 14, 2023 – 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 5:40 PM by Adrienne Cost, Chair with the following also present:

Linda Cragin, Member
Virginia Simms George, Member
Theresa Lee, Member
Jerry Anderson, Member

Ron Doucett, Friends
Henry Squillante, Friends
Kendra Faldetta, Director

The following COA members were not present: Elizabeth Nasser, Fran Bakstran, and Mitch Cohen, Selectman Rep. and Joan Frank, School Committee Rep.

1. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the January 2023 meeting were approved.

2. Friends Report:

Ron reported that there was no January meeting due to the weather. The Annual Appeal is at 80% of goal and donations are still coming in. The Friends continue to support many activities like the planned Mardi Gras event. Discussion about the rising costs of postage and delivery issues of the newsletter followed. All agreed that the newsletter is an essential communication tool for the senior center.

3. Director's Report:

Kendra shared some updates. There is an opening in the Bistro and a position has been posted with an interested applicant; a temp is helping until the position is filled. In April the Bistro is exploring offering Tuesday dinner on a monthly basis. Staffing is difficult with part-time staff and volunteers, so a lighter lunch is planned the day the dinner is offered. Guests need to be out of the building by 7. Meals are going well and are at capacity, like 60 for Valentine's Day (with center pieces from the Daisy Troop); the BBQ in Winter also went well. The St. Patrick's Day lunch will be capped at 50. The Fitzgerald School's kindergarten class will visit and read stories with the Day Break participants. A Holocaust Remembrance Day is planned. The session on safety in the home with Fire Fighter Peter Galas was very successful. A King Cake for Mardi Gras is planned for next week.

Kendra presented the budget to Appropriations last week. Daily attendance is up 17% from a year ago and year to date since 7/1/22 there have been 14,000 participants (compared to 14,000 for all of last year). Kendra has planned 31 new events she since arrived less than a year ago. The new administrative assistant, Lisa, starts next week. The position has been vacant since July.

4. WRTA:

A new driver was hired, but a driver is also stepping down. Kendra has done some comparisons to other towns and will present this information to the town administrator.

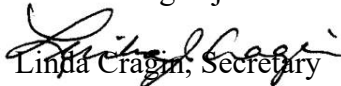
5. Springwell (formerly Bay Path):

Communication is still challenging. It is hard to get in-home services due to workforce issues. The letter to Springwell discussed last month is on hold for the moment.

6. Old/New Business and Community Awareness:

Discussion followed on how to orient the new town administrator and help the Selectman better understand all the activities at the center. May is Older American's Month and this might be a opportunity.

The meeting adjourned at 6:47 pm.


Linda Cragin, Secretary