

**Meeting of the Northborough Council on Aging
May 9, 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 5:35 PM by Adrienne Cost, Chair with the following also present:

Linda Cragin, Member
Theresa Lee, Member
Jerry Anderson, Member
Paula Moore, Member

Alli DellaRovere, Member
Ron Doucett, Friends
Henry Squillante, Friends
Kendra Faldetta, Director

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

1. Approval of the Minutes:

The minutes for the April 2023 meeting were approved.

2. Friends Report:

Ron reported that the Friend's Annual Meeting will be May 22nd at 11. A fundraiser will be held on June 21st with the Cellar Restaurant providing profits to the Friends, people are already making reservations. The Friends are considering selling reusable, insulated shopping bags with the logo.

Agnes Sagerian passed away in April with memorial gifts to the Friends. Staff attended her funeral. The board and guests took a minute to reflect on her contributions to the Senior Center for 35 years. The Friends will consider a special use of the donations in her memory.

3. Director's Report:

Kendra shared a very long list of updates. Attendance has been increasing across the board with many programs at capacity. For example, Chair Yoga was so popular that the program was split into two and then three sessions will all filled. Any and all fitness programs are popular. Attendance is 100 a day for those who swipe in, plus the 15-20% who don't. Kendra is considering a door-counter to get a more accurate report related to attendance. This in-person attendance is in addition to the classes still held remotely (Tai Chi, genealogy) that still need to be managed. Kendra also calculated the value of the volunteer hours, and this is at least \$50,000 annually.

Kenda reviewed a long list of activities – bird watching with Mass Audubon was very popular and will be repeated in August. To continue to promote understanding of other cultures, Cinco De Mayo was very popular and the Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage evening is tonight with tea tasting, lantern making, etc. Coffee with the Fire Chief was well attended and June will bring National Donut Day with the Police Chief. A summer fun day with a petting zoo is planned for June, along with a presentation about NEADS assistance dogs and a root beer float day in July. April brought back the monthly celebration of birthdays with everyone getting a piece of cake with lunch.

There is a new veteran's officer and he will be at the Senior Center when the nurse is not onsite. Cheryl has been hired to support the Bistro.

4. WRTA:

A possible new driver did not proceed with employment after seeing the work that is required. Kendra has completed a comparison of driver salaries compared to other towns and the drivers will receive a raise in July. Linda proposed that next year we recognize the WRTA staff who support the drivers with a nomination to the Thomas S. Green Public Service Award. Kendra agreed and thought that other Senior Centers might be interested.

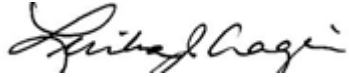
5. Springwell (formerly Bay Path):

Communication is still challenging; there are bi-monthly meetings with the director but limited outcomes. It is hard to get in-home services due to workforce issues.

6. Old/New Business and Community Awareness:

The board is interested in continuing to look at opportunities for advocacy for the Senior Center and its unrecognized value to the town.

The meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Cragin", followed by a vertical line.

Linda Cragin, Secretary