



Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday October 20, 2022 Time: 6:00 pm

Present: Pat Baillieul, Sheila Connerney, Nancy Cox, Nancy Feeney, Mary Hung, Michael Quinn, Kristine Shah

Associate Members: Rick Fentin, Ann Fitzgerald, Mara Klein Collins, Karen Nichols, Bob Tosi, Marjorie Vanderhill

Location: This meeting will be conducted virtually via zoom. These meetings are open to the public and all are welcome. Please call 781-316-3401 or e-mail KShah@town.arlington.ma.us for the link to join the virtual meeting which can be accessed by computer with internet access or by telephone for audio access only.

Kristine Shah, Executive Director

Michael Quinn, Chair

Sheila Connerney, Secretary

The Council's primary responsibilities are to design, promote, and implement programs and services to address the needs of the community's elder population, and to coordinate existing services in the community.

1. Call to order at 6:03pm

2. Citizen's Open Forum

Rebecca Gruber in attendance. No issues to discuss.

3. Minutes of the September meeting for approval

Pat Baillieul moved to approve the minutes. Nancy Cox seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

4. Executive Director's Report

There was a motion to withdraw funds from the Sevoyan trust for the Sevoyan Dental Fund (\$1,932) and the Sevoyan Personal Needs Fund (\$9,000). Nancy Cox moved to approve the motion. Nancy Cox seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

6. Report of the Chair

8. Minuteman Senior Services Report

There are multiple volunteer openings in Arlington.

10. Old Business

11. New Business

12. Other Community Announcements

13. Adjourn - **Next meeting: November 17, 2022**

Nancy Cox moved to adjourn the meeting. Sheila Connerney seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

Executive Director's Report: Kristine Shah

- I. COA Programs & Services Update
 - a. Many October programs are already at capacity and filling up including Halloween parties, Red Sox History talk, Rediscovering the T event including Senior Charlie Card Registration, a week long shredding/recycling event, Aging in Place Info talk and the John Clark Music Experience.
 - b. The 6th Annual Sage Table will take place on November 10 at the ACC, gathering the LGBTQIA+ Community of All Ages and Beyond. The highlight of this event is a shared meal connecting different generations of the LGBTQIA+ and Friends Community.
 - c. The COA is working closely with the DEI team, in partnership with EACH (Enhance Asian Community on Health) to increase outreach to the Chinese speaking communities this year. Areas of focus include cultural educational events at housing authority buildings and "How Your Town Works" educational events leading up to Town Meeting.
 - d. Digital Help with AHS students on Thursday afternoons has been full each week since school started. We are looking to increase slots in the new year through partnering with the Boys & Girls Club.
 - e. Intergenerational Tea Talk combined with the LGBTQIA+ group this month and hosted 10 international high school students and 40 older adults.
 - f. Applications for Harry Barber and Property Tax Work off are due October 31.
 - g. After much discussion about starting a Men's Group, the first meeting will be in December.

- II. Budget FY24
 - a. Capital Planning Request for Electric COA Van replacement in FY25

- III. New Grant Funding
 - a. \$5,900 from Minuteman Senior Services to fund annual hot spot fees for loan library
 - b. \$5,000 from Minuteman Senior Services to fund translation on demand and translation of COA Newsletter

- IV. Update on Financial Assistance Need
 - a. Fuel Assistance Requests are three times as high as they have been over the past 5 years. Typically in October we have only received a handful and this week alone we have had over 20.
 - b. Water bills were received by many residents this week and we received numerous calls for assistance.
 - c. With the electricity rates rising, we are expecting a continuing influx of emergency heating assistance requests.

- V. Sevoyan Trust Update
 - a. Guidance from Arlington Treasurer
 1. The Board of Commissioners for Trust Funds has previously recommended 3.5%-7% of the fund be available for annual expenditures from the Sevoyan Charitable Trust. The Trust fund balance as of August 31, 2022 was \$318,120.81.
 2. Sevoyan Personal Needs & Sevoyan Dental Requests