



Arlington Council on Aging

Minutes

Date: Thursday March 23, 2023 Time: 6:00 pm

Location: This was conducted in a hybrid format.

Present: Anne Brown, Nancy Cox, Nancy Feeney, Sherry Graham, Mary Hung, Michael Quinn (Chair), Bob Tosi, Jr, Marjorie Vanderhill, Paul Raia, Mahendra Desai

Present from Community: Pat O'Connell and group of 5 residents supporting the Senior Parking Permit Program, Rebecca Gruber

1. Call to order 6:02 pm
2. Citizen's Open Forum: none
3. Minutes of the February 2023 meeting approved: Nancy Cox motioned, Anne Brown second.
4. Executive Director's Report (see below)
6. Report of the Chair: Michael Quinn mentioned that the Boy Scout Sand bucket project has concluded for the Season. Board members expressed thanks to the volunteers who worked on that project.
7. Parking Discussion & Presentation: Pat O'Connell shared handouts with COA Board and discussed the need for Senior Parking Permits in Arlington. Neighboring towns that have similar programs are Lexington, Belmont, Waltham, Watertown. Pat explained that seniors in town are supportive of the schools and understand the need to fund important projects to keep schools in great standing, which helps real estate values stay high. She explained that the parking permits for seniors would be a token of appreciation and understanding regarding how hard it is to find parking at the Community Center. If meters on Mass Ave & Municipal lots were free for seniors, residents who could park and walk from these meters would do so and leave more parking available on Maple Street and behind the Senior Center building. Pat also expressed concern about people parking on Academy Street for the day and commuting to Boston. Michael Quinn explained that Academy Street is an issue but likely not an area we can tackle as a part of a Senior Parking Permit program. Kristine agreed that the COA could handle logistics/permit distribution for town residents. Select Board member Steve Decourcey (COA Liaison) thanked Pat and her group for presenting and sharing all of the information. He suggested the group get on the Select Board agenda after Town Meeting ends.
8. Minuteman Senior Services Report: Marge gave the update for MMSS and said that the organization is still looking to fill another board slot from Arlington. The organization is moving to Burlington and is heavily impacted by the shortages of workers in the homecare industry.
10. Old Business
11. New Business

12. Other Community Announcements: Bob Tosi, Jr. let the board know that the 250th birthday of our country is in 2026. "Arlington 250" discussions are being planned for May so residents can give input on how Arlington should celebrate the occasion.

13. Adjourn - **Next meeting: April 27, 2023 (due to school vacation week)**

Executive Director's Report: Kristine Shah

- I. COA Programs & Services Update
 - a. Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon Planned for May 4
 - b. Older American's Luncheon May 18, Summer Tea June 15
 - c. Scam Presentation with APD was extremely successful on March 9. 70 people attended and participated in vibrant discussion.
 - d. Thank you to Nancy Feeney for connecting us with the Rotary. Spring Yard Clean-Up Services will be available thanks to their volunteers.
 - e. Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief decisions were made by the committee on March 14 and \$18,000 will be distributed through this program in the form of tax abatements on Q4 tax bills. Thanks to Nancy & Rick for serving on this committee.
 - f. We received an anonymous \$20,000 donation to be added to our newly established Emergency Fund.
 - g. AARP Tax Preparation is fully booked for the season and appointments are in high demand.
 - h. We are working with MMSS to add a day for Congregate Lunches.

- II. Other
 - a. COA Staff Highlight; Lourie August, Social Worker
 - b. APCAC Recruitment Wording – to be included in April Newsletter, on flyers, and publicized. Kristine will provide letters of interest to the board at the May board meeting.

Civilian Police Advisory Commission: Seeking Letters of Interest

Arlington is in the process of forming a Civilian Police Advisory Commission (ACPAC) for the first time following approval of the Attorney General's Office and requisite posting of bylaw revisions (Title II, Article 16). The Council on Aging is charged with nominating one qualified person to serve on this commission, subject to confirmation by the Town Manager. The Council on Aging Board will review letters of interest received, and choose a nominee.

What is the Arlington Civilian Police Advisory Commission?

As described in Title II, Article 16: The ACPAC will consist of nine (9) members charged with providing an opportunity for increased understanding and trust between the community and the Arlington Police Department, assist members of the public as a resource in the event they have complaints, concerns, or commendations about policing in Arlington or specific police personnel, and to provide the Arlington Police Department and Town management with a public forum for feedback about police personnel, policies, procedures and data.

What Qualifications are Necessary?

As described in Title II, Article 16: Nominees must be Arlington residents and shall reflect racial, ethnic, gender, sexual, age, and other forms of diversity in Arlington. The Commission is especially looking to include residents with the following specific experiences:

- Criminal defense or civil rights relative to police searches, arrests, or detentions;
- Data Analysis; and/or
- Working with underserved communities such as, but not limited to social workers, mental health counselors, or civil forms of legal aid.

As described in Title II, Article 16: The following persons are not eligible for service:

- Current compensated employees of the Town, including Arlington Police Department police officers and employees;
- Current or former municipal police officers; and
- Immediate family members of current or former Arlington Police Department employees.

Members will be required to receive significant training on a variety of subjects outlined in Title II, Art. 16, sec. C of the Town Bylaws in addition to conflict of interest and open meeting law trainings.

If you are interested in serving on the ACPAC please submit a letter of interest, **by May 1, 2023**, to:

Council on Aging

Attn: Board

27 Maple Street

Arlington, MA 02476

or by e-mail to KShah@town.arlington.ma.us