

# Northampton Council on Aging Board Minutes 3/15/18

**Present:** Linda Desmond, Bob Montague, Mary Lastowski, Lorraine Weimann, Donna Park, Marlene Marrocco, John Kaczinski Jr., Deborah Epstein, Gerriann Butler, Mark NeJame, Heather Cahillane, Michele Dihlmann

**Excused:** Jim Spencer, Kathy Pekala Service, Casey Fowler, Barbara Fungaroli

**Absent:** Theresa Dunn

**Public Session** – No one from the public was present.

## Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

- Robert Montague called the meeting to at 1:30 PM.
- Motion made by Marlene Marrocco, seconded by John Kaczinski, to approve the 2/22/18 minutes as written. Minutes were unanimously approved as written.

## Old Business

1. **Update on Mary's Bistro:** The Bistro is doing well. Heather said that she applied for a \$35,000 grant from Citizens Bank. If awarded, the money will go towards stocking the pantry, possibly hiring a kitchen supervisor and getting some new equipment.
2. **ElderVision-Friends Group:** Elder Vision is solvent and looking for projects to fund. They are paying for small things for the Senior Center-mileage, a performance artist. The Board asked about the new signage regarding parking. Linda Desmond spoke the WWII Club. They are fine with us parking there. Victoria is looking into pricing. Once we have quotes, Linda will order. Marlene suggested something sturdy. The DPW or Sign Company will put them up.
3. **Northampton Neighbors:** Northampton Neighbors is doing great. Linda Desmond is hoping the next Director will still partner with them. They are filling a gap in service to Northampton seniors.
4. **EARN:** There is a need for part time jobs for EARN Members. Linda Desmond just defended Community Block Grant for EARN. It was approved. 6-10 people employed last month.
5. **St. Patrick's Day Dinner:** Was held Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Barb & John Kaczinski for a delicious meal of Corned Beef & Cabbage. It went very well. No complaints were heard.
6. **Let's Keep Moving:** Held a workshop here on Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 4-6pm with many organizations in attendance. 12 agencies were represented. Want to get the word out to help increase people using these programs. Would any of these organizations want a booth at the Health Fair?

## Highland Valley Elder Services Report by Kathryn Pekala Service

Kathy Pekala Service was not in attendance, so there was no report given.

## New Business

1. **New Board Member:** Introduction of Dennis Helmus. He will be starting in May. 15 maximum on the Board.
2. **Group Sing:** Is holding their sings at various venues. The last one was held at APE Gallery. Roy Faudree runs the group. Roy connected with Forbes Library to have a Group Sing in front of the Library. City of immigrants will be the theme. Group Sing is a monthly program. The date is always in the Conz Street Chronicle.

3. **Health Fair May 10th:** Michele Dihlmann came in to talk about the Health Fair. It will be held May 10<sup>th</sup> at Senior Center. Letters and invitations have been sent out and we are starting to receive applications for booths. She sent out 68 and got about 20 back so far. Ads for the program are sold as well. Once they send in their applications, Michele sends them directions and parking instructions. Heather Cahillane will be getting volunteers for the event. Michele will have seminars from BCBS and other organizations. The Liaison from the Police Dept was invited. The Bistro will be opened this year until 2pm. Vendors can set up the night before.
4. **Transition to New Director:** The committee submitted names of candidates they recommended to the Mayor. The Mayor decides. Kathy Pekala Service, Bill Dwight, Bob Montague and the South Hadley Senior Center Director were on the Committee. An HR person was there as well. The Mayor appoints the new Director. Bob is not sure when that will be. The Mayor may interview candidates again. The Board Members said we were lucky to have Linda Desmond. Linda thanked everyone for their support. The Board thanked Linda too. They have received lots of positive feedback that our Senior Center is wonderful with Linda here. Linda invited the Board to her retirement party on 3/26 from 4-6pm and then to the WWII Club after.

### Other Business

1. Bob Montague was looking at the By-Laws. The Board has to vote on whether to meet in July and August. By-Laws say only August off. Gerriann Butler suggested it might be good to meet in July with a new Director coming on. This will be discussed at the April meeting. This Board is an Advisory Board, as opposed to a Governing Board. Election of officers of the Board will be held in June. Bob will not be running for Chair again. Positions are Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Nominations are at May's meeting. Bob asked if anyone wanted to run. So far, for Chair, Marlene Marrocco will run. For Vice Chair, Gerriann Butler will run. If anyone else wants to run, please let Linda DeMercurio know by the May meeting. A copy of the By-Laws is attached.
2. Deborah Epstein announced the Valley Jewish Senior Luncheon is next week. They are always looking for volunteers. Please spread the word. They hold luncheons the third Wednesday of the month at the Congregation B'nai Israel on Prospect Street. There is a June BBQ at Look Park.
3. John Kacenski: Asked about signs regarding service dogs. We can only ask what service the dog provides. Can only have service dogs, not comfort dogs, in the Senior Center. ADA has a ruling of what a service dog is. The senior has to have a letter from the veterinarian regarding what the dog does. Who can address dogs with a long leash? If it is a safety issue, talk to staff. Service dogs must have a short leash. Suggestion to put a sign on the doors regarding this. Gerriann Butler will look into the wording of this. The floor in the Great Room needs to be wet mopped after the Farmer's Market on Saturdays. Bob cleans it on Monday, but Linda will check into it for Sunday events.
4. Suggestion to have a wrist band to identify that they are qualified to be in the Fitness Center. Maybe we could have volunteers monitor the Fitness Center when Bob/Sean not there. UMASS Kinesiology Dept has not gotten back to Linda. Maybe a Building Monitor or Staff Assistant. Need to discuss further.

### Adjourning the meeting

Marlene Marrocco made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mary Lastowski seconded it at 2:53 PM. Motion was unanimously approved.

### Announcements

- **Next NCOA Board Meeting:** Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1:30 at the Northampton Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Linda R. DeMercurio