

DATE: November 15, 2023
TO: Commission on Elder Affairs & Interested Parties
FROM: Frances Langille, Chair
SUBJECT: Meeting Notice and Agenda for November 27, 2023, 4:00 p.m. on TEAMS

The Commission on Elder Affairs is meeting on **Monday, November 27, 2023, 4 p.m. virtually on TEAMS**. Members who are unable to attend should contact Amy: watersa@worcesterma.gov. [Click here to join the meeting](#) Meeting ID: 215 606 180 470 Passcode: TcUSFj
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BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

- I. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - a. Call to Order/Roll Call
 - b. Approval of Commission Meeting Minutes of October 30, 2023
 - c. Approval of Senior Center Committee November 14, 2023 meeting report
- II. **Presentation: Fraud and Scam Prevention-Steve Corridori, Country Bank and member of the Commission on Elder Affairs**
- III. Elder Affairs Staff Reports
 - a. Director Report - Strategic Plan Goal and Objectives
 - b. Senior Center Operations Director Report
 1. Developing and Offered Programs
 2. Facility and Grounds
 - c. Manager of Senior Services & Education Report
 1. Outreach, Information, Referral and Advocacy
 2. Multi-cultural Programs & more
- IV. Commission on Elder Affairs Chair
 - comments &/or questions from Commission members
 - comments from others-up to 2 minutes each
 - confirm next meeting- **January 22nd at 4 pm, virtually on TEAMS.**
 - Adjourn

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Commission on Elder Affairs
Minutes - October 30, 2023

Present: Fran Langille-Chair, Shonee Austriaco, Kathan Horne, Nancy Greenberg, Richard Shea, Sarah Faucher, Steve Corridori, Tamara Cullen, Thuha Le, Linda Wincek-Moore, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters, Connor Robichaud.

Fran called the meeting to order at 4 pm at the Worcester Senior Center. The minutes of the October 2, 2023 Commission on Elder Affairs meeting were approved (m/s/a). The Report to the Commission on the Senior Center Committee meeting of October 10, 2023 was approved (m/s/a).

The guest speaker, Connor Robichaud, Regional Projects Manager of the Central MA Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC), was introduced by Amy who has been working with him on "Age Friendly" and noted that the City of Worcester signed on to the Central MA Age Friendly initiative recently. Connor noted that CMRPC, in partnership with the MA Healthy Aging Coalition, worked together to pursue a regional age- and dementia-friendly plan and designation. The main goals of the designation are to encourage collaboration, promote of healthy aging for all, develop an action plan and partnerships with stakeholders for future implementation. This information will be incorporated into CMRPC's Regional Plan, Imagine 2050. He reviewed the growth in the number of seniors in the region and the goals developed in the areas of: transportation, housing, community and health services, communication and information, and regional services. Fran provided feedback on the WRTA services; Kathan discussed health insurance involvement and Dick suggested that CMRPC be involved with supporting the development of senior housing in the vacant wing of the senior center.

Fran and Amy recognized Nancy Greenberg for her 6 years of Commission service and noted her role in continuing the positive collaboration between the JCC and the senior center.

Amy highlighted the following: Department Development Plan goals are almost met or exceeded already; Country Bank made a generous donation to Friends; 22% of the Fitness Center participants identify as non-Caucasian; 100 seniors will be assisted by the S.E. Asian Coalition's Food Insecurity program; 3 dedicated volunteers assisted with front desk coverage during a spate of staff illness; Leadership Worcester will be volunteering at the center; negotiated downsizing of tenant space per their request and the senior center committee's advice; another tour of the vacant space for development this week; attendance continues to be high; FY'23 Scoop views online are 32% higher than FY'22; and Amy answered Dick's questions about staffing and an upcoming clinic.

Patty reported on the following: Successful community garden wrap-up; DCR will be donating trees; replacing part of the roof soon; combi will be installed in the kitchen; carpets to be replaced; interviewing going well for two part-time assistants; many great programs on site and remote; and she answered Dick's question about storage. Linda noted that SHINE is very busy due to open enrollment; fuel assistance applications have begun; and a QCC human services intern will start this winter.

Fran noted that the next meeting will be held on Nov. 27th virtually. The meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm (m/s/a).

Report to the Commission on Elder Affairs
Senior Center Committee Meeting - Nov. 14, 2023

Present: Richard Shea-Chair, Facely Henriquez, Noreen Shea, Patty Hainsworth, Amy Waters.

Richard called the meeting to order on TEAMS at 12:05 pm. Without a quorum the October minutes could not be approved. Richard confirmed the next meeting as January 9, 2024 on TEAMS and noted that the full Commission will begin meeting on TEAMS Nov. 27, 2023.

Amy reported the following: Funding is stable with over \$38,000 held in contingency and \$148,000 in roll over state funding; program allocations are stable; Wellness Works new downsized lease is in place; Developers continue to tour the vacant space; A Staff Assistant II/Senior Services Assistant position will be open at the end of the month due to Lindita Taka's resignation after 10 years of service-per Facely's question, Amy will send out the job posting when available; & work has started on an FY'25 request to regrade positions which will be shared with the committee per Richard's suggestion.

Patty reported on the following: The 15 hour/week Dementia Friendly Coordinator position has been offered and filled, to be started Nov. 27th; Currently in the process of hiring the 15 hour/week Program Assistant; a crane will be delivering the materials to replace the roof tomorrow; new carpets will be installed on the first floor on Saturday; a volunteer is assisting with native plants for the rain garden; next week is the large Thanksgiving event; tomorrow is a program about Robert Goddard as well as a classical piano concert; the veterans day event was excellent; December will be filled with holiday music, including a Cara Brindisi concert, and much more; a new bereavement support group has started with 4 members at the first meeting; and there will be a program about navigating grief in the holiday season.

Richard asked about support for seniors who may be overcome with grief and Patty replied that staff will provide assistance directly or link them with other professionals. Amy will inquire about the parking lot's solar panels electricity production per Richard's request.

The meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm.

