

COUNCIL OF ELDER AFFAIRS MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 2, 2024

Date: February 2, 2024  
Venue: Senior Center  
Time Convened: 10:08a.m.

Members in Attendance: Joanne Clemons, Susan Gagnon, James Hickey, Lorraine Lenini, Linda Philbrook, June Sullivan, Robin Towne, and Elder Affairs Director Mary Collins  
Excused Absence: George Copeland.

Meeting was called to order by Council Chair James Hickey at 10:08a.m.  
January 2024 Minutes were read and voted 6-0 to accept as written.

Report of Council Chair:

James Hickey opened up a discussion about safety concerns and thoughts regarding the entrance to the Center during inclement weather. Mary said that after a discussion with the Building Inspector and the Facilities Manager, the solution would be to install a railing to prevent access to the brick patio. The Facilities Manager is getting estimates and then it will proceed from there.

Report of Elder Affairs Director:

Current respiratory illnesses in Massachusetts are on the rise. Seniors coming to the Center are complying with State guidelines.

Program Update-

February Movie is "About MyFather", a comedy.

Dancing with Henry is moved to Tuesday, 2/13 at 12:30pm

The Bereavement Group will meet on Wednesday, 2/14 at 8:30am.

Valentine's Day Singalong with Bob & Don is on Wednesday 2/14 at 1:00pm.

Card Making is back on Thursday 2/15 at 10:00am.

The Center is Closed on Monday 2/19 for Presidents Day.

On Wednesday, 2/28 The Plymouth County Comfort Dog will be showcasing their dogs at 10:00am. Officer Derek Harrington will be here with his trusty dog Ziva.

Building Update- The building of the wall by the South Shore Technical School is progressing. The Facilities Manager is overseeing the job. The Storage Unit is being used to store medical equipment that is being loaned out to the community.

Service Incentive Grant Update- Both the wall and storage unit were funded through the \$25,000 Grant.

Grant availability from EOEA-Mary is in the process of applying for this grant in order to reinstate a Five Day Supportive Day Program that was shut down during the pandemic. Up to \$300,000 may be awarded with each grant.

SHINE and Fuel Assistance Updates- SHINE is still busy with new retirees. Counselors are in the process of being recertified. SHINE participants are receiving surveys to complete and return to the Regional Director. Seniors are strongly urged to apply for Fuel Assistance.

**Report of Representatives:**

O.C.E.S.- They will be presenting a number programs at the Center in the coming Months. On March 14 at 10:00am is Falls Prevention. On May 30 is "Bringing Health To You". Each Monday in August from 8/5-8/26 at 10:00am there will be a Memory Program.

Friend's Group- The Group is running their Annual Membership Drive through March 31. The membership fee is \$5.00. Submit your application fee to the Center by March 31 and your name will automatically be placed in the running to receive a \$50.00 gift card to Shaw's. Drawing to take place on April 1.

**Unfinished Business-None**

**New Business:**

Jim reminded us that if we have any articles that we would like to submit to the Town Meeting in May, they must be brought to the next Council Meeting in March.

**Adjournment-10:57am**

**Respectfully submitted**

*Susan Gagnon*

**Secretary**