

Kingston Council on Aging
Secretary Report
Advisory Board Meeting
June 13, 2023
Approved by vote at meeting on July 11, 2023

Meeting was called to order at 11:30
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Thank you, PAC TV,

Board Members present, Austin Sennett- Vice Chairman, Donna Weinberg, Wes Meiggs, Joan Hutchinson, Caty Starr - Secretary
Also Present: Mary Beth Lawton- COA Director

Open Forum – None

Secretary Report - A motion to accept the May Secretary's report was made by Caty and seconded by Joan. All in favor.

Chairman's Report - Austin read Joe's Chairman's Report, which highlighted how to prepare for the hot summer ahead and several different types of scams, including investment scams and imposter scams. Austin spoke about a 60 Minutes Presentation that was aired on May 21, 2023 that featured different type of scams. This is a must watch for everyone. He also mentioned there will be an Emergency Medical Response presentation for Kingston seniors sponsored by the Triad group. This will be held on 6/27/23 at 11:30am. We all send our well wishes to Joe along with our thoughts and prayers.

Directors Report -

- The yard sale held on 6/10 was a great success and all of the proceeds were to benefit the Friends Group.
- Mary Beth will be filming a segment for PAC TV focusing on volunteering.
- Request from the Advisory Board regarding waiving the two-term limit for COA Board members: Maureen never responded to the letter that was sent asking if she wants the waiver from the Board of Selectmen. Joan indicated at the meeting that she is asking for the waiver approval by the Board of Selectmen. Austin will follow up with Maureen about her intentions. (Maureen later called in to indicate that she has since emailed her response to the town asking for the waiver).
- Wes Meiggs will be resigning from the board.
- There was some discussion about the current terms of each member.
- For all reappointments, board members will need to take all required online trainings and certifications to stay up to date.
- The Sacred Heart property is up for sale and there will be a presentation given by Thorndike Development on 6/20 at 6pm at the Selectmen meeting. Mary Beth has asked that board members try to attend to learn about the proposed development and how it may affect the senior population in Kingston.
- There will be a COA Board training offered on Monday 6/26 from 1:30 - 3:30pm at the Plymouth COA.
- Mary Beth will be back to PAC TV with Keith Hickey on Thursday 6/15 discussing the Age and Dementia Incentive and status.

- The Assistant Director position has been approved and will be advertised for ASAP.

Other Business -

- Thank you to Wes for his service to the senior community and our board overall.

- Discussion about succession planning to try to find new people that will be interested in joining the board and/or becoming an Associate Member. Discussion about how we all can achieve this. Austin spoke about some priorities he would like us to consider when talking to other people about joining the board. This conversation also included information from Mary Beth reminding board members not to reach out to staff members directly when needing data or information. We are to direct our request to Mary Beth, who will then obtain the information from the appropriate staff member. If Mary Beth is not available, then we will go to the Assistant Director.

- Suggestion Box - There was conversation regarding whether or not it should stay. Some comments received in the box are not appropriate. Mary Beth indicated that she would prefer to remove the suggestion box altogether to allow for seniors to direct their concerns to her or a staff member directly. Wes commented that many seniors will not go to a staff member to express their concern. Mary Beth pointed out that there are no suggestion boxes at other town offices. Caty then commented that she believes it is part of the board member's responsibility to be a sounding board for seniors to express their concerns and she hesitates to remove the suggestion box altogether. Joan commented that she is against someone making a recommendation without signing it, indicating that we can't address it without knowing who needs the help. Donna made a suggestion that if the box is removed, she would like to see something that encourages seniors to be able to write a letter or reach out directly to staff. Mary Beth is asking to try this a different way - each staff member has a box on their door. Comments and requests can be made directly to their boxes to be handled directly by them. Caty offered that maybe the "suggestion box" becomes a "communication box" to be used by seniors as a way to get in touch with the board directly for non staff related issues. Mary Beth suggested that we set up a time once a month or so, that allows seniors to come chat with us to express concerns that we would then bring back to the rest of the board and Mary Beth for consideration. We can also use the newsletter to communicate back to the seniors about what we are hearing and helping with.

Remembered: Michael Kelleher.

Election of Officers - Joan nominated Joe as Chairman. Austin communicated with Joe who had indicated that he would be honored to chair the board if he was nominated. Wes seconded the nomination. All in favor.

Caty nominated Austin to be Vice Chair. This was seconded by Joan. All in favor.

Donna nominated Caty to be Secretary. This was seconded by Joan. All in favor.

Next meeting will be July 11, 2023 @ 11:30 at COA Senior Center and/or ZOOM

Motion to adjourn was made by Wes. Seconded by Joan. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Caty Starr, Secretary