

COUNCIL ON AGING ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order at the Senior Center at 11:30am and broadcast on PAC TV, with Zoom available for those unable to attend the meeting. Thank you to PAC TV.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Board Members Present: Caty Starr- Chairman, Donna Weinberg –Vice Chair, Joanne Hutchison –Secretary, Maureen Elwood, Mary Hayes, Kathy Studley.

Others Present: Mary Beth Lawton – COA Director, Keith Hickey – Town Manager

Open Forum: Elaine Fiore, President of the Friends of the COA, discussed the opposition of the “Friends” regarding the change of the format of the Thursday lunches. They would like to have the lunches stay as they have been for many years, on Thursdays, and have the café style lunches only on Tuesdays & Wednesdays.

There was a large group of members of the “Friends” in the audience and after Elaine Fiore made her presentation, Chairman Caty Starr asked if anyone else wanted to contribute to the Open Forum. With no hands raised, Open Forum was closed.

Agenda: Café - Chairman, Caty Starr gave a brief synopsis of the plans for the Café and the fact that it will make meals available to more people at the center. Those going to events during the day will be able to stop in for breakfast or lunch items, and that those who have been going to the Thursday Lunches, can still go on Thursday.

A motion to approve the recommendation of the Café for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday meals from 9:30am to 1:00pm was made by Maureen Elwood, and seconded by Joanne Hutchison. Approved by All.

Town Manager: Keith Hickey spoke to the group regarding the “Café”. He mentioned some of the benefits and asked Mary Beth to give out more information. She briefed the group and let them know that people coming with a group can call ahead with reservations.

Joyce Gerraughty stood up and asked questions about the meals, and the kitchen help.

Joanne Hutchison asked to make a “Point of Order”. Open Forum was over & closed before our Agenda. She made a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Maureen Elwood.

It was approved by all. Shelley Loring stood up to say that she worked at Town Hall for years and knows all about Open Meeting Laws and that we shut down Joyce Gerraughty from speaking. Town Manager, Keith Hickey Stood and replied that he “respectfully disagreed”, and that open forum had been closed.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Hutchison, Secretary