

Harwich Council on Aging Board of Directors

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday – May 31st, 2023

Harwich Community Center – 100 Oak St. – Harwich, MA 02645

Channel 18 Studio

Meeting Attendance: Chair - Richard Waystack, John Bathelt, Ralph Smith, Angelina Chilaka

COA Staff: Director Julie Witas

Guests: None

1. Call to Order:

Chair Richard Waystack called the meeting to order promptly at 10am.

2. Approval of April Minutes:

The board was asked to approve the April 2023 Board minutes. John Bathelt made the motion to approve the minutes and Ralph Smith seconded the motion. Unanimous vote by members to approve the minutes.

3. Public Comment: None

4. Chair Report: Richard Waystack

- a. Congratulations to Ralph Smith for the article in the Cape Cod Chronicle covering his fascinating and rewarding life of service.
- b. Call to Action – the COA Board is looking for more people to join. If you are interested, stop by the Town Office to fill out the citizen activity form.
- c. Alan Thompson was inducted into the Harwich Hall of Fame and at his acceptance speech, Alan focused on volunteerism.
- d. Richard asked Angie Chilaka about the housing complex being discussed in the North Harwich area. Her response was that affordable and workforce housing is needed, and she hopes that the plan is well thought out.

5. Director's Report: Julie Witas

- a. The newsletter contract for FY 24 was signed.
- b. The COA has hired a Program Specialist III. Her name is Jen Anderson and she is relocating from Grafton, MA. She held the position of Recreation Director in the town of Grafton.

- c. Volunteer medical drivers are still needed. If you are interested, please contact the COA desk. If you would like to become a driver, you can do drives as often as once a week or much less frequently. The schedule is flexible to meet your needs. Most drivers take patrons every 2 to 3 weeks.

6. New Business:

- a. The town has re-signed the Intermunicipal Agreement with the town of Orleans for the Supportive Daycare Program (SDP), which supports older adults with dementia and cognitive decline.
- b. The cost to attend is now \$95 per day for 6 hours a day of care. The town of Harwich subsidizes \$30/day of this fee. The rest of the expenses (\$60) must be paid by the family. Long term insurance will cover some of the costs, though families must submit the paperwork on their own. For families with financial hardship, the Friends of COA are providing scholarships for those seniors who would like to attend the SDP.
- c. Julie stated that the Friends, in collaboration with the COA, are also applying for a grant to cover the chair yoga program for one year. The Friends are also looking for members to join their board.
- d. If you need more information about any of the programs, please contact the COA or subscribe to the COA Newsletter. The newsletter comes in hard copy or digital.
- e. Richard Waystack mentioned that the COA Board might focus on one program that we offer at each monthly meeting. This would highlight the program and help educate the public on what services the COA offers.

7. Comments: Chair Richard Waystack

- a. Each board member stated they had no other comments and thanked Julie and her staff.

8. Adjournment:

- a. Ralph Smith made the motion to adjourn and John Bathelt seconded the motion. It was a unanimous vote to adjourn.
- b. The meeting closed at 10:23 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday – June 21st at 10 am at the Harwich Community Center.