

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK

2023 SEP 22 PM 1:26

TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

TOWN OF WILMINGTON
Department of Elderly Services
15 School Street
Wilmington, MA 01887

Department of Elderly Services
Commissioners Meeting
August 17, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 2:32PM by Ken Clarkin with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

Present was Ken Clarkin, Nancy Otovic, Mark Ryan, Robin Theodos, John Wallace, and Linda Walsh. Absent and excused is Gail Protopapas.

Minutes – Thursday, June 15, 2023

John Wallace moved to accept the minutes of Thursday, June 15, 2023, as written, it was seconded by Mark Ryan.

Upon motion made and seconded

Voted: To accept the minutes of June 15, 2023, as written.

Old Business:

New Business:

- **Deb Hurley – Coordinator Assistant:**

Welcome to Deb. She is our Coordinator Assistant. This position has a new title, as the role has been updated. Deb is here Monday through Friday. We are very excited to have her. If anyone has not yet met her, please take a moment to introduce yourself and make her feel welcome.

- **Game Nights – May through September – Third Thursday of every month:**

Game Night is tonight. This month's Game Night is a little different. We are having G's Eats on the Streets food truck come to the center. This food truck owner is a teacher at the Shawsheen Tech. He has a food truck during the summer months. We are excited to give it a try and see how people respond. Anyone is welcome to stop by to get some food. The menu is posted in the lobby. September will be the last of Game Night for this year.

- **Fun Day Event – May 31, 2023, at 10:00AM – Postponed until October:**

Fun Day has been rescheduled to Wednesday, October 4, 2023. If you signed up for Fun Day already, you are still signed up for the new date. Please note that games begin at 10:00AM so there will be no Special Exercise class.

- **Powerful Tools for the Caregiver Series:**

This series begins in October. It is a six-week course designed to build the skills that caregivers need. Also coming up is the 5 Wishes discussion on September 27, 2023, "Coffee & Conversation: Right size your life by downsizing your stuff" with Dovetail Companies on September 13, 2023, and the Panel Discussion with Minuteman on September 19, 2023.

- **Update about trips:**

Planning trips is a little different now. In the past, we worked closely with Fox Tours. However, unfortunately Fox Tours has changed hands. We were upset to hear that news as Fox Tours was always great to work with and made trips very easy. Because of this and all the work put into the new Senior Center, we have not been able to plan a trip. We are open to suggestions for trips for next year.

Robin Theodos asked what happened to Fox Tours?

Terri replied they sold the business and that they no longer do senior bus trips.

Ken and Susanne Clarkin suggested the Norman Rockwell Museum and the beautiful botanical gardens nearby.

Fred Hogan who was seated in the audience suggested the sunflower field in Newbury.

Nancy Otovic suggested deCordova, the sculpture park and museum in Lincoln, and the Botanic Garden at Tower Hill in Boylston.

Linda Walsh suggested the total eclipse on April 8. She explained that it will be visible in Lancaster, NH.

Terri appreciated all the suggestions; we will look into these for next year. If any other ideas come up, please let us know.

- **"Town Hall Meeting" at Senior Center with Senator Finegold**

Come meet Senator Finegold. This is a Town Hall style meeting that will be taking place at the Senior Center on September 26, 2023. Meeting time and other important information will be announced in the September newsletter.

- **Happiness**

On October 25, 2023, at 1:00PM Henry Quinlan, who is a renowned publisher and owner of Omni Publishing Company will be at the center to discuss happiness. Henry has given presentations at the center before, so we are excited to have him back.

Also coming up in October is our Halloween costume party. More information about this will be in the September and October newsletters.

- **New Senior Center Committee Update:**

There has not been a Senior Center Building Committee meeting since July. However, this doesn't mean that things haven't been happening. We have been looking at the fine details in each room. The Committee met with IT to see their suggestions for the building in terms of Wi-Fi/connectivity and also met with the police and fire departments.

There is a public meeting for construction firms interested in the job of building our Senior Center on September 6, 2023. This will be a huge step in the process. Things have been moving at a good pace and we are happy to be on schedule. The goal is to break ground in October. When this does occur, we would like to have a celebration at the center.

Robin Theodos asked about if the new center will have a pool table and specific tables for Mahjong.

Terri Marciello replied that there will be a billiards area and correct tables for Mahjong.

The Senior Center Building Committee will be meeting next on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, at 6:00PM. Terri urged the Commissioners to attend.

Comments from the audience:

Susanne Clarkin stated that the September 6th meeting has been moved to September 12th.

Comments from the Commissioners:

Discussion occurred about the upcoming retirement of our Town Manager Jeff Hull. The Commissioners requested to write him a letter of appreciation. Ken Clarkin and Mark Ryan volunteered to write the letter and will present it at the next meeting.

Adjourn:

There being no further business to come before the commission, John Wallace moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Robin Theodos.

Upon motion made and seconded

Voted: To adjourn the meeting at 3:23PM.

Next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2023, at 1:30PM.
Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Fordham
Senior Clerk

