

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

Department of Elderly Services  
Commissioners Meeting  
September 21, 2023

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK

2023 NOV -6 AM 11:14

TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

The meeting was called to order at 1:33PM by Ken Clarkin with a salute to the flag and a moment of silence.

Roll Call:

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

Minutes – Thursday, August 17, 2023

John Wallace moved to accept the minutes of Thursday, August 17, 2023, as written, it was seconded by Robin Theodos.

Upon motion made and seconded

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of August 17, 2023, as written.

Old Business:

- **Letter to Town Manager:**

Letter written by Commissioner's Mark Ryan and Ken Clarkin to say thank you to the Town Manager for all his support to the Senior Center during his 36 years as Town Manager. Terri Marciello requests that all the Commissioners stop by the center to sign the letter by the end of next week.

New Business:

- **Flu Shots – October:**

Announced here first, the town will be holding a flu vaccine clinic on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at the Senior Center from 12:00PM to 4:00PM. You must register over the phone or in person beginning on Monday, October 2, through Friday, October 6, 2023. There are 100 vaccines available so there will be plenty. You will be given a specific appointment time after you are registered.

- **Town Manager, Event, October 18, 2023:**

Terri Marciello has confirmed with Jeff Hull a farewell party for him on Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 1:30PM (Jeff will arrive at 2:00PM.) A poem and our letter will be read to him. The letter will also be given to the Selectmen for their meeting on October 23, 2023. Cake and desserts will be served, and we will be presenting Jeff with a plaque.

- **Fun Day Event – October 4, 2023:**

Fun Day is right around the corner. Space is still available if you would like to come. There will be games and a bagged lunch from AJ's Kitchen. Susan Devlin, our BINGO caller runs and organizes Fun Day for us for which we are very thankful.

Nancy Otovic asked what you do on Fun Day?

Terri Marciello replied that there is horse racing, Left Right Center, roulette, blackjack, and more. Tickets are won and then used for an auction on various items at the end of Fun Day.

- **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. The response to this event has been very good. Laura Pickett has been working with Minuteman Senior Services to help organize the event. This was a popular program in the past and we are happy to have it again.

Five Wishes is also coming up on Wednesday, September 27, 2023. Space is still available if you are interested in attending.

The high school orchestra will be performing at the center on Friday, December 15, 2023, and Delvena Theatre Company will be coming to the center to perform "A Christmas Carol" on December 8, 2023. We are also working on planning a holiday party.

- **"Town Hall meeting" at Senior Center with Senator Finegold:**

At the request of Senator Finegold, we are having a meet and greet with him on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, from 5:00PM-7:30PM. Light refreshments will be served. This will be a good opportunity to connect with him in person. He is new to representing our town. In the past we had Senator Tarr, but they have recently updated territories.

- **Halloween celebration – Tuesday, October 31, 2023:**

We will be having a costume party for Halloween on Tuesday, October 31, 2023. The party starts at 12:30PM and lunch will be pasta and meatballs. Terri Marciello asks the Commissioners if anyone is interested in being a judge for the costume party. Ken Clarkin, Robin Theodos, and Gail Protopapas all volunteer.

- **Homebound Meal – December 5, 2023 – Volunteers needed:**

Our special homebound meal is coming up. We are looking for volunteers to help deliver them. There will be approximately 75 meals. We are planning to ask Rocco's to prepare the meals as they did a great job last year.

John Wallace asked what time the meals needed to be delivered.

Terri Marciello replied that she was not sure yet but probably around 10:30AM or 11:00AM.

Terri wanted to take this time to also mention that there will be a mobile eye care event on September 28, 2023, from 8:00AM-4:00PM. Sign up must be done online. The van will be parked outside of the library. Any vision insurance is accepted. If you have no insurance, the cost is \$85.00.

- **New Senior Center Committee Update:**

The Senior Center Building Committee met last night on September 20, 2023. This was a very crucial meeting. This meeting was to determine the construction company that will be doing the job. This past week five construction bids came in; subcontractors put in their bids two weeks ago. The lowest bid (J & J Contractors) was 1.8 mil over the expected total cost. The cost of building supplies has gone up 20%. This is happening with projects across the state. Dan Pallotta (OPM), George Hooper (The Chair of the Senior Center Building Committee), Jeff Hull (Town Manager), and Bryan Perry (Finance Director) all met to discuss the options available, in which there are two.

Option 1: We must have a Special Town Hall meeting to vote to get extra funds.

Option 2: To utilize funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. This is a grant given by the Federal government due to COVID-19. Our town received a little over 7 million. They have spent 800,000 thus far.

There are certain guidelines that need to be met to use the money. The Senior Center meets all these guidelines. The Senior Center Building Committee were approached about these two suggestions. Ultimately, the Selectmen will choose one of these options at their meeting on Monday, September 25, 2023, at 7:00PM in room 9 at the Town Hall. Terri Marciello urged all commissioners to attend the meeting and to let others know about it too.

It is important that the Selectmen chose an option at their meeting as these construction bids only last 30 business days. If we wait, the cost could go up even more. We hope to get this decision made on the 25<sup>th</sup> and get a contract signed.

**Comments from the audience:**

None

**Comments from the Commissioners:**

None

**Adjourn:**

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

Upon motion made and seconded

**Voted:** To adjourn the meeting at 2:17PM.

Next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Fordham  
Senior Clerk