

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

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TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

Department of Elderly Services  
Commissioners Meeting  
February 17, 2022

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, John Wallace, and Linda Walsh.

Minutes – Thursday, December 16, 2021

Mark Ryan moved to accept the minutes of Thursday, December 16, 2021, as written, it was seconded by Gail Protopapas.

Upon motion made and seconded

**Voted:** To accept the minutes of December 16, 2021, as written.

Old Business:

New Business:

- **Mask Update:**

As of February 14, 2022, the Town of Wilmington has updated the mask mandate. Vaccinated individuals are no longer required to wear a mask in town buildings. However, it is important to note that there are still many people who are concerned and will want to continue to wear their masks. Unvaccinated individuals are still required to wear a mask inside town buildings. There will still be no food inside the building; however, coffee and tea will be starting again in March.

The tent will be back outside the center from May 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022. The tent was very well received and is not just useful for covid, using it gives us more space for activities. We are working on making some fun events for the coming months. We will be having a magic show and hopefully the annual cookout as well. Terri Marciello asked that if anyone has ideas for fun events to please let her know.

- **Thank you for Grab and Go – Donation for St. Patrick's Day March 16, 2022:**

Our grab and go events will be continuing through the rest of the year even as COVID restrictions begin to ease up. We have received such great feedback about the grab and goes and we enjoy doing them as it gives us a chance to see individuals that may not feel comfortable being in large

group settings. We will be having a mixture of indoor and outdoor events, grab and goes, and sit-down lunches.

Our next grab and go will be on Wednesday, March 16, 2022, for St. Patrick's Day. The senior center will be sponsoring this one and we will be ordering corned beef, turnips, carrots, and potatoes from Rocco's. There will be more information about this including the date to sign up in the March newsletter.

- **Income Tax Program:**

The income tax preparation appointments began on Tuesday, February 8, 2022. We thank our AARP volunteers for making this possible. We were able to book over 160 appointments for Wilmington seniors. If you or anyone you know needs more information about the senior circuit breaker, please see our February newsletter. If you qualify, you could receive \$1,170. Applications are available at the center if needed. Call the center if you have any questions.

- **Fruit Program:**

Our Meals & More program will also be continuing. We did one delivery for the month of February but will continue to deliver twice a month going forward. Deliveries are made to Deming Way, home delivered meals recipients, other isolated individuals who are homebound, and are given to our classes. This program is made possible by a grant from Winchester Hospital Community Benefits program. The feedback about this program has been great and will continue to the end of this year.

- **Class/Event Updates:**

We are currently working on getting some new classes to begin at the center. One of which is a weight training class that may be starting in late spring. We are also working on creating more art classes as well.

On April 21, 2022, the Delvena Theatre group will return to the center to perform Bon Appetit, Julia! In June, we will be having a magic show. Game night will be returning as well and potentially a paint night. Terri met with the library, and they are setting up some intergenerational programs. More information about all these events will be in upcoming newsletters.

- **John Wallace:**

Commissioner John Wallace received a phone call from Donna at the Hardnen Tavern. They are looking to get a group of veterans together on Wednesdays from 9:00AM-11:00AM and are curious about how many people would be interested. There will be more information to follow. We will put information about this in the senior center lobby and on our social media accounts.

- **Senior Center Committee Update:**

Given to all commissioners for today's meeting was a packet of newsletters from P3. Page 1 of this packet was inside every resident's water bill. These newsletters can also be found on the town website under the tab entitled "committees" – then "senior center". Please note that the

town website has been updated and is more direct and easier to use. Terri asked the commissioners to review the packets to see all the progress that has been made.

The Senior Center Building Committee meets every other Wednesday. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 23, 2022, at 6:00PM and is in person. Everyone is encouraged to attend and ask questions. To avoid confusion since there are many different committees and meetings, WCTV has decided to use a logo for viewers watching on television to be able to easily identify which meeting they are watching.

On February 16, 2022, Lee Morrisette from Dietz & Co. came to the senior center to see how our current building functions. Lee saw the entire building and how each room has many different uses. He and Terri met for over two and a half hours. Lee has a good understanding of our center and the importance of outdoor space.

Next, the meeting focused on reviewing some of the building layout options in the packet. Option 3 in the packet has been voted out by the Senior Center Building Committee as the breakup of the rooms do not do justice for the building. The Senior Center Building Committee likes option 4 the best thus far. At the meeting on the February 23, 2022, there will be more detailed options to review and there will also be an option 4a and an option 5.

Susanne Clarkin seated in the audience asked why the bathrooms are behind the administrative area in option 4? Terri replied that this has been redesigned because there were comments made about the layout. We will see the new design of option 4 at the upcoming meeting.

Linda Walsh asked about bathroom space. Terri replied that there will be companion bathrooms as well and separate staff bathrooms. As for space, Terri said that there is a formula used by the architect that determines bathroom size.

The architect is also working on a design requested by Selectman Kevin Caira which would show the building with two floors. A second floor was discussed when the committee was choosing a location and now has been brought up again. However, it is important to review all requests so we can say we tried all options when we go on the Annual Town Meeting.

Robin Theodos asked why we wouldn't want two floors? Ken Clarkin replied that two floors could be difficult for seniors with limited mobility, and it is costly to maintain an elevator. Gail Protopapas said that two floors could also be a fire risk. If a fire were to break out, elevators should not be operated and seniors with limited mobility cannot use the stairs potentially leaving them trapped on the second floor.

Terri said that we have quite a bit of work ahead of us, but we have come a long way. Terri is very impressed with people and their efforts put forward. We need to keep the momentum going. There will be many more details to iron out. It is better to question these types of things now instead of disliking them once the building is complete. Updates will be put on the board in the lobby of the senior center after the meeting on February 23, 2022.

Gail Protopapas asked if we could use a different room in the town hall besides room 9 as it is very hard to hear. Terri replied that room 9 is used because WCTV has their equipment set up there, but we can certainly ask about this again as this is a common complaint.

**Comments from the audience:**

Linda Toth; 54 Fiorenza Drive: Linda asked what happened to the parking lot entrance/exit coming out onto Glen Road instead of Main Street. Terri replied that it is worth asking again but it was an issue with traffic and/or blind spots.

Susanne Clarkin suggested that the parking lot have curb cutouts as these direct people where to walk so they are not walking between cars.

**Comments from the commissioners:**

Commissioner Robin Theodos stated that this has been a very informative meeting and found it helpful to catch up on what's been going on.

**Adjourn:**

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

Upon motion made and seconded

**Voted:** To adjourn the meeting at 2:54PM.

Next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 16, 2022, at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Fordham  
Senior Clerk