

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
March 17, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 1:32PM 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 was Gail Protopapas.

Minutes – Thursday, February 17, 2022

John Wallace moved to accept the minutes of Thursday, February 17, 2022, as written, it was seconded by Mark Ryan.

Upon motion made and seconded

Voted: To accept the minutes of February 17, 2022, as written.

Old Business:

New Business:

- **Mask Update:**

As of Monday, February 28, 2022, face masks in public buildings are no longer required. Some people may still choose to wear a mask. People are welcome to choose what they feel more comfortable doing.

- **Kitchen:**

Kitchen coffee and tea began started again in the beginning of March. We plan to have food allowed in the building towards the end of April or beginning of May pending how things are going.

- **Thank you for Grab and Go – Donation**

- Next date April 12, 2022 – Happy Spring:**

There was a great response to the St. Patrick's Day luncheon on March 16, 2022. This event filled up very quickly, all staff were taking calls and within twenty minutes the event was full. This luncheon was sponsored by the Wilmington Senior Center and the meal was made by Rocco's. The police did have to come to direct traffic because the line was so long.

Linda Toth seated in the audience asked if some meals are more popular than others. Terri Marciello stated that over all they are the same, but the St. Patrick's Day luncheon has a big following. Linda then asked if volunteers were needed for the events. Terri replied that at this time it is running well but thank you for a great suggestion.

Terri shared that for the past two years all programming has been free but in the late Spring, we may have to start having a minimal charge for meal programs again. Robin Theodos stated that people may need to be alerted about this. Terri shared that it will be written in the newsletter when the time comes. Terri also stated that people are starting to ask about a charge, and some are already prepared for it.

- **Income Tax Program:**

This program runs through April 5, 2022. We are very fortunate to be able to provide this program. This year our AARP volunteers have helped with over 160 income tax returns for Wilmington seniors. We thank the volunteers for making this possible again this year.

- **Class/Event Updates:**

Classes have been going well. We had a new sign up for chair dancing with Jan (the instructor) on Tuesdays which will resume next week. We are working on getting some new classes started. There are already a lot of fun events set for the coming months. Make sure to see the newsletter for important dates and when to sign up.

- **Senior Center Committee Update:**

Terri shared updates about the February 23, 2022, senior center building committee meeting and a discussion began.

Linda Toth said that "most people aren't looking at the style of the senior center, they are coming here for the activities."

Robin Theodos commented on how she heard someone say its too modern looking, "well it won't be for long, the building has to appeal to the young as well as the old."

Susanne Clarkin said that "at some point they need to start discussing the cost. If the cost of the modern building is higher than the traditional building," Susanne said she would prefer the traditional one.

Ken Clarkin (referring to option 4 from the February 23, 2022 meeting) said the "knuckle" is something the architect would like. "The building had an overhang as a portico, I liked it, can that still be on an L shaped building?"

Linda Toth spoke about the Heather Wood Apartment in Tewksbury and shared that "it would be worth seeing. There are three phases of sitting space. There is a pergola and nice seating so when people want to be outside, they can be under the shade. There is also a screened in area."

Ken Clarkin mentioned putting a fence around the new center. The contractor in Ludlow Senior Center had a nice fence. Ken remarked on the comment made by the OPM that Wilmington is a safe area and that we may not need the fence. The fence wasn't for safety but was there for sound and appealing view.

Comments from the audience:

No comments from the audience.

Comments from the commissioners:

John Wallace reminded Terri to discuss the Tent. Terri replied that the tent will be put up May 1, 2022 and will be up through September 30, 2022.

Terri shared that we will be unable to have the next commissioners meeting on April 21, 2022, due to a scheduling conflict. Our next meeting will be Thursday, May 19, 2022.

Adjourn:

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

Upon motion made and seconded

Voted: To adjourn the meeting at 2:20PM.

Next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2022, at 1:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Fordham

Senior Clerk