

**COMMISSION ON AGING
MINUTES
JANUARY 18, 2023**

- Attending: Steven Katz, Presiding; Kip Burgweger (attending by phone); James Dougherty; Anne Marie Hynes; Amy Jurkowitz (attending by phone); Heidi Nolte; Ellen Wolfson
Staff: Lori Contadino; Laurette Helmrich.
Guests: Joe Greco (GREATS)
- Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m.
- Minutes: Minutes of the November 2022 meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The Chair asked if there were any corrections. A correction was made to the Nathaniel Witherell report to reflect that there was a meeting scheduled that Ellen Wolfson attended but they did not have a quorum present so no meeting took place. With this change the Minutes were approved.
- Chairman's Report: S. Katz reported that the RTM approved our funding of the \$300,000 State Grant and the Wallace Estate gift.
- Strategic Planning: S. Katz reported that the goal is to do a more robust plan to take into account the renovated facility and the revamped staffing. There will be a strategic plan coupled with an implementation plan that can be measured against benchmarks. Teams from Johns Hopkins and Columbia will work on the plan with us at no cost to us. The goal is to develop a three to five-year plan. It is hoped to have a plan ready for the Commission to approve in late Fall 2023.
- Dept. Of Human Services: E. Wolfson reported that the Department has decided to have fewer meetings each year. The Department remains under budget due to unfilled positions. They have done a strategic plan that expands the focus on BANC and mental health and addiction.
- Nathaniel Witherell: E. Wolfson reported that the Board has not met since our last meeting. On January 26 there will be an educational presentation on Nathaniel Witherell for RTM members that will be open to the public.
- SWCAA: A.M. Hynes reported that SWCCA' did not have a December meeting.
- Friends of The Senior Center: J. Dougherty reported that the new Board will be meeting soon. Two accounts have been set up at UBS - one for the Wallace funds for renovations and the other for the Wallace funds for programming.
- Senior Center: L. Helmrich reported that the Center was closed the week after Christmas for a deep cleaning. We have two new laptop computers for the tech lounge. Laurette

welcomed Lori back from medical leave.

Executive
Director's
Report:

L. Contadino thanked the staff and the Commission for all the help while she was on leave. She noted that Laurette will be retiring on January 31 but that she will be back on a part time basis after two weeks to help with the transition to a new director. The job description for the position is in the process of being updated and the update will require Town and union approval. Once approvals are received the position will be posted.

Medicare D: Counseling ended on December 7 and was very successful. Approximately \$185,000 was saved for those counseled.

Renovation: H. Nolte reported that there was little progress in the weeks prior to the holidays. There has been activity lately especially with exterior plumbing/sewer issues. The Town hopes to have completed the new kitchen project by the end of May. It is felt that an environmental study needs to be done to assess mold and other issues. It was suggested that there is a need for a building committee comprised of volunteers with construction, architectural and financial experience to oversee the renovation project.

Marketing: A. Jurkowitz reported that work on the website continues and that we have switched designers.

Share The
Fare:

L. Contadino reported the Town Risk Management has let us proceed with setting up transportation with UBER. We will explore options for those who do not have or want the technology to use with UBER.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Commission will be at 8:30 on February 15, 2023.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James B. Dougherty
Secretary