

**Council on Aging  
Board Meeting Minutes April 5, 2023**

**Members Present:** Abby Camp, Rocky Fox, Erin Lynch, Arlene O'Reilly, Judith Perkins, Robert Kucharavy, and Mary Anne Easley, and Linda Williams.

**Staff Present:** Jerico Mele

Meeting called to order 1:303 pm remotely online.

**Approval of Agenda: Bob moved to accept; Abby seconded. All approved.**

**Review of the Minutes:**

Approval of March minutes. Bob Moved to approve, Judith seconded. All approved.

1. Marianne: Introduced new board member, Rock Fox.
2. Rocky: Introduces and reviews how he has been (and still is) involved in extensive community services and activities.
3. Marianne: Requested that all council members introduces themselves. All present spoke about how they are involved in community and public services.
4. Marianne: Senior Man and Women of the Year review: discussed what to consider, protocols, next meeting is when we vote on the nominations. Further discussions on the process.

**Linda:** Wants to have the form redone, to help streamline the criteria more accurately—what you do for the community. Can't accept anyone who is paid to work with the elderly, being pleasant and going to church is not the right criteria. People are not filling out the forms completely...

**Jerico:** Lauren and I can work on the process to revise it, welcomed everyone to provide feedback and can put it together for the council review. More discussions on this between council members.

**Arlene:** Suggested online forms and downloadable pdf forms to obtain a stronger response from public. Further discussions on this between council members. Jerico will work on this to review with council members.

**Rocky:** Have we reached out to all elderly services (Pascon, school district, etc.) beyond salt marsh?

**Linda:** Yes, they get the newsletter from the salt marsh, but will reach out to B&G club

**Marianne:** Rocky will reach out to schools, I will reach out to Pascon.

**Arlene:** If the online form is completed in time, I could reach out to NCTV and the NHA, INKY, Daybreak and Currents if there is an online form to link to. Further discussions.

**Marianne:** We will redo the form for next year. We will plan to have an online form and follow up with the media to help with PR. For this year, expect to work with what we have and be prepared to vote in May's meeting. June 22, Fairgrounds Rest is the luncheon to honor the Man and Women of the Year, all council members should be there.

## **5. Next Agenda, Bob updates on the NHA on the Road.**

**Robert:** Combined forces with MMA, powerpoint of women who were prominent in our history. Some were included from the 30's and 40's that triggered more engagement with the seniors. They remembered many of them. More dialog continued.

**Jerico:** Suggested NHA maybe could be involved with the Memory Cafe.

**MaryAnne/Linda:** Discussion on video taping these conversations. More dialog, CPC and NHA to capture this generation as a living history. More Dialog.

**Abby:** Thought - art discussions in the 1960's, it would be great to capture discussions like that. More discussions on history and economy of the island.

## **6. Jerico Report on Human Service**

1. COVID report - nothing to report, no spikes.
2. CFN - updates on grant opportunities for seniors that will be starting and will keep the council advised.
3. Contract Review Committee, we have just started a behavioral health youth grant, address issues around substance abuse.
4. In the process of hiring a new community health nurse.
5. In discussions with both the visiting nurses association and with a state-backed EMT company to bulk out the flu and covid clinics in the fall.

**Marianne:** Question, more than half of the people coming to the warming center are seniors. Found that surprising and I want to revisit the warming and cooling centers for seniors.

**Jerico:** Yes, the definition of "unhoused" is a disruption of normal place to stay, no heat, electric, etc. They are referred to elder services and we keep an eye on that.

**Arlene:** Last summer we talked about cooling centers for seniors, the idea came up for ice rink, curious if we had any traction on that?

**Jerico:** Yes, we did have initial discussion, but the ice rink is busier in the summer. He has not followed, but will. More discussions on alternatives and challenges. More discussions on other options for a heat emergency.

**Linda:** Suggested that most of the churches have air-condition basements, we should approach them. More discussions on the logistics and challenges of various options and senior center in the future.

**Abby:** Is there transportation for seniors?

**Linda/Jerico:** Island Ride. Hardest aspect is identify those that need this service. More dialog on complexity. There is an emergency team here that does have a lot of this aspects worked out beyond Human Services.

## **7. Marianne:**

Everyone should have received Laura Stewart's report of her activities at the Salt March. She is not here today.

Update on Senior Home Medication program, we have only done one this month. We continue to have seniors request the grab bars and railings. Very positive feedback on the services and the handymen who are the installers. Will most likely be slow as we go into high season. Half of grant spent. Expect to pick up again in the fall.

Speakers: Kelsey Grey from Visiting Nurses Association will be next months speaker. More updates on future speakers moving forward, please send any suggestions for speakers to me or Laura.

**Open to comments or questions:**

**Erin:** Best of Care at Sherburn Commons hosts a speaker every month. Kevin Ramos from the fire dept will be speaking on fire safety. Its a free lunch and anyone is welcome to attend.

Linda: Motion to adjourn:

Bob seconded. All in favor.