

# CITY OF GARDNER

MASSACHUSETTS 01440

## COUNCIL ON AGING

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Charles P. McKean Building  
294 Pleasant Street



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T: (978) 630-4067  
F: (978) 632-5965

### **COUNCIL ON AGING - Minutes**

Board of Directors Meeting

January 9, 2023 @ 2pm Senior Center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdHPRpVsfcA>

**Present** - Director Michael Ellis, Chairman Ron Darmetka, Vice Chair Paul Leone, Secretary Kathy O'Brien, Treasurer Theresa Hillman, Golden Age Rep Gloria Tarpey

**Associate Members:** Mary Shaffer, Paul Crowley, Dan Kelley, Nancy Hebert, Adele Peterson,

**Absent:** Patricia Jandris, Cheryl Howes, Evelyn McCarthy, Ken Fournier

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER:**

Meeting called to order at 2:00 pm by Chair Ron Darmetka

#### **2. MINUTES:**

Motion made and carried to accept the minutes of the December 5, 2022 meeting of the Board, Leone/O'Brien, 5-0.

#### **3. TREASURERS' REPORT`**

As of December 31, 2022, the City General Fund/Operating Account has an ending balance of \$114,011.75. The total yearly budget was increased to \$197,739.94 reflecting salary adjustments for the salary line items.

The Gift Account has an ending balance of \$55,570.48. There was a \$100 reclass of income from the revolving fund to the gift fund. Terri reminded folks we may be accessing these funds for things we may need at the new building.

Revolving Account has a balance of \$37,741.50. All expenses are programmatic. Income received is usually immediately expensed. We should see an increase in expenses in January reflecting expenses for the holiday meals.

State Grant Account for FY2021 has a deficit of \$4232.35. This deficit will be adjusted to another FY that has available funds. FY22 has a balance of \$4,063.80 while the FY23 grant has a balance of \$62,061.56. The total carryover as of December 31 is \$61,893.10 Mike noted we are working hard to put in the outreach worker position which will draw down our available funding and spoke about staffing projections. He also noted that we

had an increase in our State Formula Grant for FY2023 and that number will be locked for the next ten years.

Motion made and carried to accept Financial Report, Kathy O'Brien/ Gloria Tarpey, 5/0.

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS:

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **COA Shirt-** Mike presented Rob Darmetka with a staff shirt noting his election as Chairman a year ago.
- b. **Scarves-** All members of the board were presented with a scarf as appreciation or the work they do. Mike note that these were provided through the support of John's Sport Shop
- c. **Covid Clinic-** over 180 people received their vaccines at this clinic in December. DPH and Board of Health visited. Received great feedback and comments and shared our operations plan with them. Another clinic is set up for March 13. We may receive a grant for up to \$10,000 for our work in hosting the clinics. All vaccines available. Appointments urged..
- d. **Holiday Events-** Had great participation in our holiday programs this year, including our open house, AARP Holiday Party, Golden Age Holiday Party, and Veterans Holiday Program
- e. **Holiday Meals-** Mike recognized the Gardner Lodge of Elks specifically Tim and Lisa for all their hard work—they made this happen! They made this happen. Mike recognized the sponsors of the program as well including Wachusett Manor, The Rotary Club, The Lion's Club, Chairtown Lumber, LeBlanc & McCaie, Boucher Funeral Home, Mack Funeral Home and all those who did food for us including Williams, Gardner Ale House, Whitsons Culinary, Gardner Rehabilitation, Alliance Health, And Table Talk Pies. Many thanks to the Mayor's Office for their support, Hannaford's for working to make sure we were able to order and get all our food, and the folks at the CAC that gave us so much support.
- f. **BJ Farrell, Commander of the USS Constitution** will be coming as our speaker on January 25, 2023 at P.A.C.C. at 12 p.m. with a snow date of February 1<sup>st</sup>
- g. **LPL Financial-** Will be providing counseling to seniors starting in February. Thank you Paul Fitzpatrick for your support and help
- h. **Caregiver Support changed** to second Tuesday of the month from 3pm until 4pm. Facilitated by Jen LaRoche, CSO. Will include programming.
- i. **Sand for Seniors** underway- distributed on January 16. Gardner CAC secured a supply of buckets for the Center this year. Must call and register
- j. **Tax Aide** starts on January 31 here at the Center.
- k. **Quabbin Valley-** will be coming in an doing monthly programs, last Wednesday of the month
- l. **Tea-** coming up in February
- m. **Yoga-** We have on-boarded a couple new YOGA instructors for Friday classes while our permanent Yoga Instructor is taking Professional Development
- n. **Basket Weaving-** sponsored by Paul Leone- coming up in February
- o. **Knock out Pool-** coming out in March

- p. **Trips and Excursions-** planned and scheduled for the entire year and schedule is out
- q. **Walk Through and Conversations-** Mike and Ron will host several chats about new location and plan for new location and room assignments. The Secretary of EOEAA has asked to come and be a part of the opening of the new center. With new location we are looking to add some new programs
- r. **State of the City Address-** tomorrow. All members asked and invited to come and be a part of this important address.

## 6. OPEN DISCUSSION –

### A. Cutting the Cord

Paul Leone has been getting information about this program. A lot of positive response and interest in the program. Feels like people attending should have a good command of the subject. Paul provided a great referral for instructors. Mike reminded folks we are not opposed to cable but we have a number of people trying new technology who don't know how as well as looking to cut costs. Reminder to folks that even though you may use another TV service, you still have to have internet provider/service and will have to have a second remote in some cases.

### B. New Location

Members noted that they attended the informational meeting and found it to be very informative. Suggested all attend if they can. There will be a meeting in February and we hope to have a meeting at Waterford St in May. The meeting must be posted and must be made open to the public and we are not quite ready to invite the public in the new building yet. Mike walked through steps needing to be taken before we move including the giving of the building to City, adopting the building for the Senior Center, appropriations, design, and rehabilitation work. Other uses of the building were discussed.

Question about what might happen to the existing center. All speculative now, maybe sold for private use generating tax revenue and other revenue for City. Senior Center/Council on Aging does not own building.

Will we be planning a ribbon cutting/grand opening for the new location of the senior center? We will do an opening in collaboration with our partners.

Mike put out a request for volunteers and help to paint and renovate the rooms, If people are interested they are invited to contact the Gardner Senior Center.

**7. NEXT MEETING DATE is Monday, February 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.**

**8. ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn made by Leone/O'Brien, 5-0**

**Respectfully submitted by,  
Kathleen O'Brien, Secretary**