

**MEETING MINUTES
WINTHROP COUNCIL ON AGING**

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024
Time: 10:30 AM
Location: Robert A. DeLeo Senior Center
35 Harvard Street, Winthrop, MA 02152

Present: Kathy Dixon, Director, Council on Aging
Alice Haskell, Chair
Linda Cronin
Kathy Driscoll
Cynthia Huff
Heather Martin
Mary Vitale

Call to order at 10:35 AM by Kathy Dixon, Director, Council on Aging

I. Approval of Minutes

A Motion to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 2024, meeting was made by Cynthia Huff and Mary Vitale and seconded by Heather Martin and Linda Cronin. Minutes were approved.

II. Announcements

Kathy Dixon reported that the St. Patrick's Day party, scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, is almost sold out. This event is being sponsored by Representative Jeff Turco.

III. Director's Comments

- A. Kathy Dixon reported that we are still looking for a new Spanish teacher as she has heard nothing back from the one to whom we had recently offered the job.
- B. Kathy Dixon reported that the number of Grab and Go lunch participants has doubled since last year. The number of people using the Grab and Go option is much higher than those who had utilized the dine-in option. Kathy Dixon reported that there is a suggested donation of \$2 in payment of the lunches, and while this is not currently mandated, she indicated that perhaps it may need to be mandated in order to help defray the costs of the lunches. She suggested that perhaps we could have something set up so that a person or business could sponsor the lunches for any given month, and that for that given month, we could have a sign at the front counter informing people as to who was sponsoring the lunches for that particular month. She indicated the cost for a person/business to sponsor a month of lunches would be around \$200.

- C. Kathy Dixon reported that the number of van rides in the town have doubled since the initiation of the free town rides as a result of the recent Grant we received. She reported that this is working very well.
- D. Kathy Dixon reported that the recent Fraud Prevention Seminar was a great success. She has spoken with the DA's Office Representative about doing this two or three times a year.
- E. Kathy Dixon reported that Rose Kaye and Linda Cronin are working on coordinating our planned upcoming Retirement Fair and that Linda Cronin had provided her with a list of possible topics for the Fair. Kathy Dixon indicated that Social Security and AARP would be pertinent topics for the Fair and that perhaps Peter Caggiano could provide information on his services as well. She reported that items such as movie days could be part of a regular activity, and she indicated that a movie day is already in the planning process. Kathy Dixon reported that the Fair will be held for a few hours, either in the morning or afternoon, and could include demonstrations such Zumba, etc. Regarding the MBTA and The Ride, Kathy Dixon reported that Rose is putting together a program whereby twice a month, for two hours, seniors interested in obtaining a Senior T pass can come to the Senior Center, have their picture taken and can fill out the required form to apply for the Senior T pass, and the Senior Center will then submit the applications and photos to the T for processing. Regarding The Ride, Linda Cronin reported that you need to have a medical condition to be eligible for The Ride and that it is helpful to have the application form for this to be filled out ahead of time, prior to the required appointment with the MBTA. In addition, The Ride now has a partnership program with Uber to provide Ride services by Uber, with a \$3 base co-pay.
- G. Linda Cronin reported that a new employee at her workplace is a certified CPR instructor and suggested we might consider holding a class in CPR instruction. Linda indicated she might be able to get him to conduct this class. We would have to provide a room for this and would have to decide on a price, and we would have to purchase our CPR card once we have taken the class. Linda will check further into this. The person she is suggesting is Red Cross certified and is a new Administrator in Training at her workplace.

IV. Adjournment

There being no further business, a Motion to adjourn was made by Mary Vitale and seconded by Cynthia Huff. The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathy Driscoll, Secretary, Winthrop Council on Aging

Adopted by the Board at the meeting of
March 14, 2024

Alice Haskell, Chair
Winthrop Council on Aging