

Pelham Council on Aging Minutes
April 14, 2021 • Via Zoom

Call to order: 3 p.m.

Members present: Tracy Osbahr, Nancy Rose Weeber, Grace Dane, Kathy Martell (joined at 4:20 p.m.). **Guests:** Jane Porter, Linda Spink, State Rep Mindy Domb

Warrant: Tom Terault \$25 (food delivery); Xavus ("MySeniorCenter") renewal \$790; **Total \$815**

April 10 Minutes: Approved as written: aye Tracy Osbahr, aye Nancy Rose Weeber, aye Grace Dane.

Senior Survey: Members (TO, GD, NRW) and Guests (JP, LSP, MD) contributed to a lengthy discussion about specific survey responses. Despite low response numbers (about 18% of 475 surveys mailed), info and suggestions from Pelham seniors was useful and pertinent as we plan for the future. Suggestions included:

1. Pelham COA should create and use its own email address
2. Collaboration with other committees on creation of a Pelham listserv. (for Pelham citizens/seniors to exchange info, interests, and requests)
3. That an insert with COA info (council members contact info, town website info, and info about upcoming events/programs) be included with birthday cards sent to seniors each month; further discussion about *at what age* seniors should receive birthday cards (currently age 60; some council members prefer 65 or 70 as start time; tabled for future discussion)
4. That the PCOA seek wider integration with other town committees and councils (e.g., housing, etc.); that Pelham seniors have stakeholder interest in the town; sharing of info would strengthen our connections, and the COA would be more visible, more informed
5. Contact Police Chief Thomann to ask if he and his officers would find cards with COA contact information useful to distribute to vulnerable Pelham seniors.
6. Continuing collaboration with Amherst Neighbors

Tracy will continue to update info on the COA page of town's website, to keep those Pelham elders with internet access informed. A few seniors volunteered to deliver food and/or provide additional help. Many seniors expressed gratitude to the COA. Further discussion about program development will continue at May COA meeting.

Outreach Worker position: Discussion included the minimum qualifications and experience we require in an outreach worker: associate's or bachelor's degree in gerontology, social work, human services, or related field; strong computer knowledge and skills; good social-interpersonal and communication skills; ability to work with minimal supervision; CORI check and valid MA driver's license; salary commensurate with experience. Members present agreed to continue brainstorming ideas in preparation for further discussion at our May COA meeting.

Presentation of "My Senior Center" program: Kathy was unable to share program access codes with council members. Nancy expressed concern that council members haven't been able

to use the program. Kathy agreed to contact Xavus re: rescheduling training and authorizing Tracy as another system user.

Old Business:

1. Community Hall storage of COA materials: Grace reported that sheet rock is ready for shelving; work is on hold until ventilation system work is completed. Grace has communicated with Pelham librarian, Jodi Levine, who is not concerned about delay in moving COA materials/supplies from the library.
2. Pelham Housing committee and Preservation committee requests discussion with the COA at an upcoming meeting.

New Business:

1. the COA has facemasks to offer seniors.
2. Jane Porter expressed willingness to serve on the COA as associate council member. Specific details re associate-member position outlined. Jane will send letter seeking approval to the S.B., and a council member will represent her at an upcoming S.B. meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Nancy Rose Weeber