

Council on Aging  
Executive Board Meeting  
April 12, 2023

Present via zoom: George Nickless, Jen DeSimone, Jane Metrano, Mary Hull

Staff Present: Nancy Hammond

Friends of COA: Veronica Matthews

Guests: Board of Select Members; Kathy Billota, John Round

George called the meeting to order at 4:36.

The Minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting were accepted as read.

Select board representatives reported that a physical senior center is high on their priority list. They do not have any specific update on this issue. A joint Fin/Com Select Board meeting is scheduled for later this week. They will be considering long-range and capitol expenditures. A five year facilities plan will be completed this summer. George underscored the high number of seniors in town eager for a facility and also expressed appreciation for the Congregational Church for their current generous provision of space for programming in their chapel. Both Kathy and John have visited various centers in other communities and are planning additional visits making note of the widely differing approaches to the issue.

#### Directors Report

Approaching the last several months of the fiscal year the budget remains on track. A third van is out for repair. Nancy feels the state's decision regarding her grant proposal for two new vehicles is imminent.

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day falls on June 14th. The COA, Manchester PD and Senior Services will be sponsoring a rally on the town green.

The annual Walk Mass Challenge sponsored by the Mass COA begins on 5/1 and goes through 10/31. There is a competition among COAs for the most walkers. One can sign up for this self directed walking initiative at "[walkmasschallenge.com](http://walkmasschallenge.com)"

Mass Office of Elder Affairs has announced a 1.5 million dollar grant to provide electronic devices for seniors as well as training in their use. Individual cities and towns can apply for up to 100 thousand dollars to use for this purpose. Nancy will approach Essex COA to see if they are interested in applying jointly for these funds. In any case Nancy will file an application.

#### Friends Report:

The Friends have \$80,000 in their savings account earning 3.5% interest.

The "Coffee and Conversation" program they sponsor on Mon. mornings have a consistent twenty to thirty attendees. SB member John Round often attends these gatherings and seniors have expressed their appreciation for this opportunity for direct conversations with him about their needs.

A \$200 gift has been made to the Congregational Church in memory of June Nickless and in appreciation of their generous provision of space for COA programming.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:08

The next meeting will be held on May 10, 2023

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary G Hull