

COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
9:30 AM

This zoom meeting will be recorded

Join by computer:

<https://zoom.us/j/96757919817?pwd=VC9KeIFORTFBNXQ5Qng1NXZpTGpXZz09>

Join by phone: +1 929 205 6099 US

Meeting ID: 967 5791 9817

Passcode: 468417

Members Present: Jerry Gove, Chairperson, Dr. Joan Shea-Desmond, Vice-Chairperson, Wendy Tirck, Alice Tierney, Ellen Strobel, Leah Magnifico, Barbara Sanborn

Members Absent: Frank Leary

Others Present: Andy Sheehan, Town Manager, Jillian Smith, Director, Starcia Melara, Recording Secretary

With a quorum present Jerry Gove, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at **9:35 am**.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES:

MOTION: Ms. Tierney made a motion to approve the January 27, 2021 minutes; Dr. Shea-Desmond seconds motion. All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Andy Sheehan, Town Manager - Municipal building update:

- Showed slides of the property at 105 S. Main St.
- Pointed out where the municipal building will be placed on the 51 acre area of land
- Explained necessity of new building vs what we are using now
- Discussed cost of construction in MA
- Showed slides of the current Fire Department
- Explained and showed slides of the current Police Departments facility
- Council On Aging current building has many issues and needs a new space. Seniors are the largest growing cohort in town. We need more space and facilities for everyone.
- Memorial Hall slides show it used to be a school, lots of structural issues, not handicap accessible
- Mr. Sheehan discussed the population over time in Middleton and how it has increased dramatically in 30 years
- Started planning process about two years ago. Design professionals helped construct the plans. We've had numerous public information events on the project and a lot of feedback

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from the community.

- Town meeting will be some time in Spring. Proposing to bring the entire project forward. Police/Fire in one building and Community/Town Services in another.
- \$61.7 M to construct the new building. Cost goes up if the project is done in phases rather than moving forward all at once. Mr. Sheehan showed cost comparisons of other town projects that have been completed.
- Mr. Sheehan showed and explained slides of the plans and cost analysis
- He explained voting, bidding, and financing processes
- Hoping to break ground in 2022 and occupy buildings in 2024
- Possible walking trails in the unused portion of the space
- Discussion held around building with eco-friendly materials, energy efficient (geo-thermal) tools and solar panels on the roofs

CHAIRPERSON REPORT:

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Activities:

- We are still digitizing photos. Students come in later in the day and are digitizing photos and slides. Students took a break for vacation.
- We want to bring back Bingo and other events.
- We will still require masks and social distancing for our soft reopening in mid-March.

Other:

- Vaccine registration has been taking over the COA. It has been a very busy process. We have registered participants at the following locations: Oak Knoll & Orchard Circle, The Legion, Elder Services in Danvers, sitel in Hamilton, Doubletree. We've also helped register food pantry staff and homebound members.

Newsletter:

- No newsletter for March-April. All time has been committed to helping everyone get registered for vaccinations
- We will do a newsletter for May/June

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Dr. Shea-Desmond moved to adjourn the meeting at **10:40 a.m.**; Ms. Tierney seconds motion. All in favor. **Motion carries.**

Respectfully submitted, Starcia Melara, Recording Secretary