



Woodstock
Committee on Aging
April 9, 2024 - Minutes
Woodstock Town Hall, Room B

1. Chair Kevin Downer called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.
2. Roll Call: Kevin Downer, Kristen Kaiser, Suzanne Woodward, Su Connor, Wendy Costa, Melissa (Missy) Jameson, Sue Swan (5:40), Dotti Durst. Member of the Public: Amy Monahan.
3. Approval of Minutes:
Motion M. Jameson seconded by W. Costa to approve the 03/26/2024 minutes of the Woodstock Committee on Aging carried (S. Woodward abstained), noting that in section #5, second sentence ~~..pf~~ should have been ...of...
4. Review of draft ordinance to codify the CoA into the Town ordinances: tabled by the Chair awaiting the arrival of a member who has notified him of a brief delay.
5. Update regarding planning for a Spring COA-related event: D. Durst will forward the information about a possible fall WCoA collaborative presentation with NECCOG to M. Jameson and K. Kaiser, who will participate in the planning. (It was noted that the PCZ agenda item regarding Senior Housing matters was tabled, as the presenters did not arrive).
6. Continued conversation regarding AARP Livable Communities and Network of Age-Friendly Communities, i.e., aarp.org/livable-communities/network-age-friendly-communities: the Committee concurred, after pursuing several research avenues, that AARP maintains a neutral stance in the political aspect of advocacy for Senior interests; it is affiliated with the WHO. The Committee agreed it is appropriate to move ahead, after the Ordinance/Town Meeting approval process is completed.
Motion S. Connor seconded by W. Costa to recommend to the BOS that the town begin steps to apply for participation in AARP Network of Age-friendly Communities carried unanimously.
7. Update regarding Senior-related information accessible/available on Town of Woodstock CoA and Agent for the Elderly webpages: several points were covered, and documents distributed or shared. Chair K. Downer has forwarded the document to all area churches, via their electronic network. Details of how to interact within the town hall to achieve the desired distribution of the "Tri-Fold" and coordination/inter-relationships with Recreation, the Agent for the Elderly and other sections of the town website. A Facebook site could be considered. The EDC and Rec both already have one. There should be a way for residents to automatically receive the blast emailed meetings notifications sent out from the town hall. S. Woodward noted the need for public relations after the Ordinance is approved.
8. Public Comment: Amy Monahan presented a conceptual document, which proposes a Senior Open House, linking the senior programs in the region, thus avoiding duplication and assisting sites which generate only a few participants by broadening the reach. The concept involves making residents aware, by topic or activity, of what program or activity offered, the site, the week of the month/day/times. A regional open house might launch the concept; late summer was proposed, or early fall. Then, the document listing these resources could be distributed in many places, such as each week on Mondays, at the Community Kitchen at the Congregational Church. The Committee was supportive of the idea.

4. Continued: Review of draft ordinance to codify the CoA into the Town ordinances – several terms and phrases were reviewed. The consensus of the Committee members is that the group should be titled a Commission, as would be required if grant funding were to be requested or other sources of income develop. The question of which specifics belong in the Ordinance and which in the Bylaws will be requested of the town clerk by K. Kaiser. The goal is to get the Ordinance proposal on the BOS agenda very soon, then be able to be included in the upcoming town meeting for ratification.

Motion W. Costa seconded by S. Swan to advance the Ordinance, as modified following today's meeting, for the creation of a Woodstock Commission on the Aging to the BOS for their consideration carried unanimously.

Resume agenda sequence:

9. Other from the Committee: D. Durst brought in copies of materials from regional senior service providers, including a poster to advise residents of a phone number where they can learn about various food-providing services. S. Woodward provided an overview of the Housing Authority and encouraged WCoA members to consider volunteering and asking those they know. S. Connor discussed flu/vaccine clinics. D. Durst brought contact information for the Alzheimer's/Dementia Association; they will set up a forum in the fall (not the same month as a forum set up by NECCOG). The question was raised about possible state grants or other grants/financial support for the Over-60 population.

10. Correspondence and Announcements: none

11. Public Comment: None

12. Adjourn:

Motion M. Jameson seconded by W. Costa to adjourn at 6:16 pm carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, Dotti Durst *Dotti Durst*
Clerk, Woodstock Committee on Aging

Note: These minutes of the Woodstock Committee on Aging meeting have not yet been approved. See the next meeting's Minutes for approval or any modifications as determined by the Committee.