

COMMISSION ON ELDER AFFAIRS

Minutes of Sept. 24, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT: Theresa Eckstrom, Chair; Robin Bahr Casey; Meg Coffin; Tom Cullinane; Paul Franco; Nancy Greenberg; Paul Johnson; Fran Langille; Nghia Le; Elizabeth Nguyen; Chizoma Nosike; Richard Pinkes; Cathy Rao; Caroline Sullivan – EXCUSED Richard Shea

STAFF AND GUESTS PRESENT: Amy Vogel Waters; Patty Hainsworth; Linda Wincek Moore; Ron Motta; Jack Casey, recent President of local affiliate of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made. The Commission minutes of June 18, 2018 were approved as distributed. M/s/a The Senior Center Committee Report of Sept. 18, 2018 was approved as distributed. m/s/a

Jack Casey, recent President of the local affiliate of National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) spoke about the organization and answered member's questions. NAMI offers many free services such as support and educational groups for families or people with a mental illness diagnosis. They also offer public speaking and encourage companies to sign on to CEO's Against Stigma. City Manager Augustus has signed on to this campaign.

Amy updated members on the goals and objectives. FY 2019 tax levy funding is stable and state funding will be level funded and possibly increased later in the year. Funds for various programs (job seekers, Dementia friendly respite) have been received from AARP and Mass. Assoc. of Council on Aging. The Worc. Housing Authority block grant was renewed to provide transportation to the senior center. The new part-time receptionist has been hired. Seniors Helping Seniors will be closing and Griswold is taking their clients and possibly the space currently rented by Seniors Helping Seniors. Plans are still underway to renovate the parking lot, 4th floor, fitness center, theater and demolition of the Anderson Building although the timeline has been changing, as the Hazmat exploration continues.

Patty reported the summer concerts were successful again, as well as the "Spend A Day at the Senior Center" and "Distinguished Speaker" series. The Walking Club and Community Garden were successful this summer and the new Respite Day Program has just started. Flu clinics are being scheduled for the fall. WiFi and the security cameras have been upgraded in the building.

Linda reported on evidence based programs being taught at the senior center, outreach efforts in the community, and various interns/students who will be assisting in the fall. A transportation survey to assist the possibility of seniors using Uber and Lyft will be done this fall.

Ron Motta reported on the activities of the Friends of Worc. Senior Center and results of the Scoop mailing pilot program.

The meeting adjourned.