

Bridgewater Elder Affairs Commission Meeting
Minutes: Monday, August 14, 2023 (Virtual Meeting viz Zoom)

Members Present	Members Present	Members Absent
Chair, David Frim	Nick Bagas	Marylou Harding
Vice Chair, Diane Roza	Debbie Heckbert	
Treasurer, Gloria Lemieux	Robin Sherrick	
Secretary, Rich Gopen		
Doug Dorr (<i>Associate Member</i>)		
Shari Sprong (<i>Associate Member scheduled to be approved next week</i>)		

The meeting was called to order by David Frim at 2:02pm.

1. The June meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Note that there was no July meeting due to lack of a quorum.
2. Announcements and Holiday Closings: Monday, Sept. 4 (Labor Day). Also, there will likely be closure on a full day to be announced for installation of a new generator.
3. The official opening of the new portico will likely be on a day in August to be announced.
4. David wished to commend the painting group, and he noted the passing of Anita Smith.
5. Subcommittee Reports: None
6. Treasurer's Report

	Spent in February	Current Balance
Howard Foundation	0 spent	\$10,000
COA Revolving Account	\$2,438	\$22
Needy Seniors Account	\$0	\$1,296
Miscellaneous Donations	\$735	\$37,248
Nutrition	\$1,377	\$8.834

Miscellaneous Donations expenditures were primarily for the casino trip.

David asked whether the Needy Seniors account could be used for people needing cleanup assistance, e.g., for yard work. Emily responded that this might be appropriate, and that this would also be an appropriate use for student volunteers.

6. Director's Report
 - a. September is National Senior Citizens Month. We will have a number of special events to celebrate including Bistro meals at \$4.
 - b. October 4: Open House, including free Bistro lunch and many activities still in the planning stage.

- c. There will be two and maybe three BSU interns for the fall, including one to focus on transportation outreach.
 - d. Transportation usage has been very high lately, including 144 people in the past month. Main destinations have been 1. The Senior Center, 2. Market Basket, and 3. Walmart in Halifax.
 - e. 66 people are now registered for the Food Bank Package Program. They can pick up or have delivered a package once a month. Since this is a joint program with East Bridgewater, some members are EB residents.
 - f. The Farmer's Market vouchers have been completely distributed.
 - g. Our on-site lunch program has been trending down, though we have 40+ recipients of Bistro meals and 66+ recipients of Meals on Wheels.
 - h. We are looking for more volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels, particularly for Thursday mornings, and we have been doing recruitment.
 - i. The Top of the Hill newsletter now has a printing of 450, with about 250 being sent through the mail and the rest distributed to strategic locations. An additional 600 are distributed electronically, so total circulation is about 1,050.
 - j. On social media we have about 600 Likes on FaceBook, 150 on Twitter/X, and another 100 on Instagram.
 - k. The Mitchell Elementary School is hosting several community activity bulletin boards, including for the Senior Center, Garden Club, Literacy Place, Crafting, and the One Book One Community program (which is donating copies of this year's youth book, *I Am Ruby Bridges*.)
 - l. There will be a meeting next week regarding the plan to utilize Community Preservation Funds, including those to enhance the Senior Center/Conant Center campus.
7. Old Business: None
 8. New Business: Diane Roza noted that when police responded to a recent "lockout," they didn't know the location of the Senior Center. Emily said that she would ask the police leadership to see that new officers are informed about the Senior Center.
 9. Public Comment: None

Our next meeting will be at 2:00pm on Monday, September 11, 2023

Meeting adjourned at 2:29pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Gopen, Secretary
Elder Affairs Commission