

# Adams Council on Aging Advisory Board (ACOAAB)

## MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 2, 2023

2:00 pm

3 Hoosac St., Adams, MA 01220

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TOWN CLERK  
ADAMS MASS.

**Members Present:** Aleta Moncecchi, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Mach, Secretary; Benjamin Acquista; Leona Meczywor; Pam St. John; Mary Whitman;

**Excused Absents:** Bruce Shepley, Chair; Thomas Dubis; Barbara Ziemba

**Also Present:** Sarah Fontaine, ACOA Director; Barbara Proper, ACOA Outreach Coordinator; Richard Jette, AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

**Meeting Documents:** Agenda; Meeting Minutes (September 11, 2023); Volunteer Application, and the ACOA newsletter (October 2023)

1. **CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM:** Aleta Moncecchi, Vice Chair called to order the regular meeting of the ACOAAB at 2:00 pm. Roll call was conducted and a quorum was confirmed.

2. **REVIEW /APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the September 11, 2023 meeting were submitted for approval. A motion to approve the minutes as submitted was moved by P. St. John and seconded by M. Whitman. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **PROGRAM/OUTREACH REPORT:**

A. **Recent Events Review:** A report of recent events was presented by S. Fontaine, the ACOA Director.

**September: National Senior Center Month** - 9/1 Nonagenarian (90+) Birthday Party at Bounti-Fare; 9/6 Presentation from MA Behavioral Health Line; 9/6 Friends Meeting; 9/8 Musical Bingo; 9/11 BINGO w/ Sweetwood; 9/11 Drumming; 9/12 Mobile Food Bank; 9/12 Caregiver Support Group; 9/13 Craft w/ Izzie; 9/13 Living with Loss Support Group; 9/14 Chair Massages; 9/18 Meraki Discounted Hair Cuts; 9/18 Art w/ Donna returns; 9/19 Foot Care & BP Clinics; 9/19 Craft w/ Williamstown & North Adams Commons Admissions; 9/20 Presentation from nbCC Community Health Worker; 9/22 Brown Bag; 9/25 Linen Lunch; 9/26 Mobile Food

Bank; 9/27 Pizza & Salad Lunch w/ COA Staff; 9/27 Gen Silent Documentary Screening & Discussion Group w/ Rainbow Seniors of Berkshire County, Adams Free Library, and Kanopy; 9/29 Adams Historical Society Presentation; 9/30 Walk to End Alzheimer's at the AVC

- B. Upcoming Events/Programs Review:** A report regarding upcoming events was presented by S. Fontaine, ACOA Director.

**October:** 10/6 Adams Historical Society Presentation; 10/8-9 RambleFest; 10/9 COA CLOSED; 10/10 Mobile Food Bank; 10/10 Caregiver Support Group; 10/11-10/13 MCOA Fall Conference in Danvers; 10/11 Living with Loss Support Group; 10/16 In It Together Social Group; 10/17 Foot Care & BP Clinics; 10/18 BINGO w/ Williamstown and North Adams Commons Admissions; 10/18 Friends Meeting; 10/18 Adams Food Pantry at First Congregational Church; 10/19 Chair Massages; 10/19 nbCC Working On Wellness (WOW) Workshop- Fire Cider; 10/24 Mobile Food Bank; 10/25 Magnetic Poetry Class w/ Izzie; 10/27 Brown Bag; 10/27 – 10/29 Pumpkin Walk at AVC; 10/31 Costume Party and “I Scream” Social w/ Amedysis

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. The Volunteer Application form draft was reviewed and approved by the Adams Town Counsel. Website review action items are under review with a year-end target date for completion.
- B. Volunteers needed for the new Adams Food Pantry at First Congregational Church (target start date of October 18, 2023) to be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month from 5 -7 pm; AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program is at risk of not being able to be held in Adams due to a lack of volunteer tax preparers and intake facilitators.
- C. Mobile Food Bank (MFB) and Brown Bag distribution times were changed due to the Food Bank of Western MA's relocation to Chicopee. MFB's distribution continues on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the new time of 12:30 pm; Brown Bag program distributions will continue on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month at a new time of 11 am.
- D. New ACOA van drivers, David Ronnow and Greg Trottier, are completing their training requirements with an end-of-October target date for completion.
- E. EOEA FY24 State Formula Grant increased from \$12 to \$14 per town resident aged 60 and older. Data from the 2020 Census indicated a decrease in the aged 60 and older demographic.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. TRIAD Group conversations have begun with the Adams Chief of Police and the Berkshire County DA's offices and others to resume the program.
- B. Diversity Awareness Month (April 2024) programming planning will include outreach to the Community Coalition and Williams College to explore options. ACOA expanded its partnerships with the Rainbow Seniors of Berkshire County. Adams profile statistics will be obtained to understand this demographic.
- C. Adams Memorial School building bids for plumbing and bathroom renovations, needed for the ACOA's use of the building, were presented from EDM Engineering and David Tierney, Inc. for \$700,000 and \$650,00, respectively. Funding from the CDBG grant is not eligible until the 2025/2026 fiscal year. Additional meetings and discussions with town administration will be held regarding funding options including issuing bonds.
- D. Applications will be submitted for grants including the Cultural Council Grant (deadline October 17, 2023, for FY 2024) and the Service Incentive Grant (SIG) Funding (deadline November 9, 2023, for FY 2024).
- E. The ACOA annual Holiday Party will be held on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Bounti-Fare restaurant.

**6. FRIENDS OF THE ACOA REPORT:**

Pam St. John reported results of the ACOA Friends successful fundraiser of slightly under \$6,000 for its event, which included musical BINGO, raffles, and a silent auction.

After reviewing venues and liability insurance options, the ACOA Friends afternoon tea party event will be held at the ACOA on Wed., December 20 at 2 pm and will be limited to 50 attendees.

**7. MEMBER ITEMS:**

Community member, Richard Jette from the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide, discussed the need for volunteers. Volunteers will be provided training and support to learn skills in several roles to provide help to taxpayers. The ACOA has an urgent need for volunteer counselors and client facilitators to continue to host the tax preparation program in Adams.

No ACOAAB member items were presented or discussed.

- 8. NEXT MEETING:** ACOAAB's next meeting will be Mon., November 6, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

- 9. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was moved by P. St. John to adjourn and seconded by L. Meczywor.

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.