

**Adams Council on Aging Advisory Board (ACOAAB)**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, March 4, 2024

2:00 pm

3 Hoosac St., Adams, MA 01220

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TOWN CLERK  
ADAMS MASS.

**Members Present:** Bruce Shepley, Chair; Aleta Moncecchi, Vice Chair; Thomas Dubis; Leona Meczywor; Pam St. John; Mary Whitman (via phone); Barbara Ziemba

**Excused Absents:** Elizabeth Mach, Secretary; Ben Acquista

**Also Present:** Sarah Fontaine, ACOA Director; Barbara Proper, ACOA Outreach Coordinator

**Meeting Documents:** Agenda; Meeting Minutes (February 5, 2024), The Buzz newsletter

1. **CALL TO ORDER/QUORUM:** B. Shepley, Chair, opened and called to order the regular meeting of the ACOAAB at 2:00 pm. Roll call was conducted with the establishment of a quorum.

2. **REVIEW /APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of the February 5, 2024 meeting were submitted for approval. ACOA Director Sarah Fontaine noted amendments that needed to be made: Under Section 5. New Business, D. Community Round Table, strike "on February 22, 2024, at 6pm to gather community input and facilitate a conversation with representatives of MOTAH Premium Cannabis". Add "on February 26, 2024 at 6pm with community organizations and agencies such as ProAdams, Explore Adams, Berkshire Scenic Railway, and Adams Theater to discuss community events and establish a pool of volunteers to promote them and staff the Adams Visitor Center as needed." P. St. John made a motion to accept the February 5, 2023 meeting minutes with the amendments and waive the reading. A. Moncecchi seconded the motion. 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.

**February:** AARP Tax Aide Program on Mondays and Thursdays 9am-1pm; Matter of Balance Program on Mondays and Wednesdays 9-11am by Barb and Izzie; COA Board Meeting; 2/7 Friends Meeting; 2/13 Mardi Gras Lunch; MFB, Caregiver Support Group; 2/14 Grief Support Group; 2/15 Cash Bingo; 2/19 Closed for Presidents' Day; 2/20 Foot Care and BP Clinics, 2/23 Brown Bag; 2/26 Winter Wellness Seminar; 2/27 MFB; 2/29 Leap Day, Clay Play Craft.

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

**March:** AARP Tax Aide Program on Mondays and Thursdays 9am-1pm; Art w/ Donna resumes Mondays at 1pm, 3/1 Matter of Balance Graduation; 3/4 Read Across America Day, COA Board Meeting; 3/5 Davis Bates Irish Songs & Stories; 3/6 Friends Meeting – election of new President; 3/7 Slam the Scam w/ St. John Law; 3/11 Encore Casino Bus Trip; 3/12 Mobile Food Bank, Caregiver Support Group; 3/13 Partnership Kick-Off w/ Adams Housing Authority, Living w/ Loss Support Group; 3/14 St. Patrick's Day Linen Lunch; 3/18 Social Group; 3/19 Foot Care/BP clinics, Cabin Fever Intergenerational Lunch w/ BART Student Chorus; 3/20 Cash Bingo; 3/22 Brown Bag; 3/23 ThunderFest @ AVC; 3/25 Aquaponics Tour at House of Correction; 3/26 Mobile Food Bank, Tea w/ Strangers at The Daily Grind; 3/27 Drumming, 3/28 Egg Color Craft w/ Izzie

**April:** AARP Tax Aide Program on Mondays and Thursdays 9am-1pm through 4/8/24; 4/1 COA Board Meeting; 4/3 Friends Meeting; 4/9 Possible Hot Dog Picnic for Red Sox Opening Day, Mobile Food Bank, Caregiver Support Group; 4/10 Living w/ Loss Support Group; 4/15 Closed for Patriot's Day; 4/16 Foot/BP Clinics, 4/23 St. John Law Consults, Mobile Food Bank; 4/26 Brown Bag (possible date/time change due to volunteer lunch), Volunteer Recognition Luncheon at Zucchini's; 4/30 Bus Trip to Chicopee - Polish Museum, Lunch at Munich Haus, Stop at Bernat's Deli

**4. OLD BUSINESS:**

- A. Volunteer Drivers for the Rogue -Possible volunteers- Bet Azar (via E. Mach), and possible others via B. Shepley, Peter Tomy and the Adams Lions Club.

Bet Azar is also in a band (Tommy T & Black Velvet), should look into for a possible fundraiser.

- B. Community Round Table Follow Up by B. Shepley – the group establish an event calendar for 2024. Bruce is helping to coordinate Visitor Center desk coverage and has signed the Adams COA up for June 15 & 16, August 24 & 25 from 10am-5pm.

S. Fontaine/COA will confirm a date with ProAdams/Dave Bissaillon for the COA to host Coffee in the Court, hopefully either May or June.

- C. State Ethics Conflict of Interest Training Reminder for Those Who Didn't Completed – S. Fontaine gave this reminder to those present.

**5. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. How Does the COA Promote Ourselves - B. Shepley
- Sarah will create an updated brochure, printed through Adams Specialty Printing.
  - Brochures and Info flyers at community events like Thunderfest
  - Berkshire Eagle contributor Gillian Jones and info@iberkshire.com
- B. Should the COA Have a Table at ThunderFest – B. Shepley
- Possibly, if promotional material available. Bruce Shepley and Pam & Ed St. John willing to staff it.
- C. Spectrum News Highlight of COA's collaboration with Heart and Soil Soup Program –
- B. Proper working with Olson Farm in Lanesboro, who use left over veggies from the growing season to make soups that are then distributed to seniors in the community by volunteers.

- 6. FRIENDS OF THE ACOA REPORT:** via COA staff- next meeting is 3/6/24 at 1pm. Election for new president to be held.

**7. MEMBER ITEMS:**

ACOA Advisory Board member items discussed included;

A. Pam St. John- Tea with Strangers at the Daily Grind 3/26 and 4/24 1-2pm. Limited to 5 people.

B. Aleta Moncecchi- BCAC Flyer, Eleanor Roosevelt Presentation in memory of Steve Green 4/13/24 6pm at All Saints Church in North Adams.

C. Mary Whitman- spoke with North Adams residents who are promoting the Adams COA programs and events; possible holiday party at the Country Club in November instead of December, Party subcommittee members (Mary, Bruce, Pam, Friends of the ACOA members) will discuss.

D. Tom Dubis- suggested looking into the McCann Tech Culinary Program for the holiday party- hosting vs catering it; also suggested continuing it at Bounti-Fare with a buffet instead of a served meal.

8. **NEXT MEETING:** ACOAAB's next meeting will be held on Monday, April 1, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:** A motion to adjourn was made by Pam St. John. Seconded by Aleta Moncecchi.  
The motion passed unanimously. B. Shepley, chair, adjourned the meeting at 2:52 pm.