



# Town of Dudley

Council on Aging  
October 18, 2022 at 3:30 p.m.  
Dudley Municipal Complex  
71 West Main Street, Dudley, MA

## **1. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance:**

Janice Brady, Chairman, opened the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

In attendance was Janice Brady, Kathy Cormier, Charle Marlborough, Carmella D'Ambra, Cheryl Leyden, Anita Hickey and Stephen P. Rogerson.

The Old Business meeting minutes from September 20, 2022 were read by Ms. Cormier. The New Business meeting minutes were read by Ms. D'Ambra. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read by Ms. Hickey and seconded by Ms. Leyden. Unanimous. Passed.

## **2. Old Business:**

- a. The next workshops done by Bemis Farms Nursery will be:

Monday, October 24, 2022 - Harvest Cornucopia - \$15

Monday, November 14, 2022 - Evergreen Door Swag - \$25

Monday, December 12, 2022 - Centerpiece surprise - \$15

All workshops will be held on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. There must be a minimum of 15 people signed up for the workshops to take place. Ms. Brady stated Tina, from Bemis Farm, was going to reach out to the Webster Senior Center to see if they would like to join Dudley for these workshops. Ms. Brady has not heard from her.

Those interested can sign up by calling at least one week prior to the workshop at 508-949-8015 (Dudley Senior Center).

- b. The flower beds will be moved for the winter at the end of October or early November. They will be moved into the fenced in area on the Town Hall property. Once moved, a tarp will be placed over the planters to prevent damage from snow and ice over the winter. Three or four were damaged while moving them last year and had to be put back together. The planters need to be moved from the parking lot for the winter so the Town is capable of plowing and sanding properly. If not moved, there is a chance damage could be done with the plows. The umbrellas were taken down for the winter and are being stored in a closet in the senior center.
- c. The next Memory Café will be held on October 20, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Christoph Carter, who is a solo acoustic guitarist, will be the entertainment. Sandy Allen will be the entertainment for the November 17, 2022, Memory Café. Ms. Brady stated she had found her while looking for new entertainment. Ms. Allen is an instrumentalist.

She works with woodwind instruments and background music. She also works with individuals with dementia in clinics.

- d. Four resumes were received for the Council on Aging Director position. One person from Dudley, one from Webster and two from Connecticut. Interviews are in progress, and they are hoping to hire someone within the next week or two.

### **3. New Business:**

- a. The date set for the annual Christmas party will be December 15, 2022. The attendees will be a combination of Senior Center members and those from the Memory Cafe. Franny Mikolajczak will be playing the oldies. This event will be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and will be a potluck supper. Ms. Brady stated she'd like to have people call if they will be attending to know how much food will be needed. There is a possibility that there will be no meal that Friday due to the Christmas party being held on Thursday. Every year attendees bring a small gift such as socks, underwear, Tee Shirts, and gift cards. These are all given to the Salvation Army to help the homeless and those in need. She also looked to the Board for other ideas. Ms. Leyden asked if a giving tree was ever done. Ms. Brady stated there was not. Ms. Marlborough suggested folks could bring a small monetary donation for the local food pantries. Ms. Brady stated there is always a jar for donations in the Senior Center. Ms. Marlborough asked if they receive a lot of donations. Ms. Brady stated no, as the seniors don't have a lot of money to donate. Ms. Leydon stated it would be cheaper for a senior to donate money rather than go shopping for a small gift. Ms. Marlborough stated if this doesn't work out, they won't do it next year. She also stated that everyone attending should know this is a voluntary donation. Ms. Brady stated this would be included in the Webster Times monthly article at the end of this month. Ms. Leydon asked if there would be two donation jars, the regular one and one marked for Christmas. Ms. Brady stated there would be one marked "Christmas Donations" at the party. There was a discussion as to who the donations would go to. Ms. Brady stated they usually donate to the Salvation Army. She stated everyone should think about who they would like to give the donations to and also ask the seniors who attend the Senior Center to make some suggestions. These suggestions can be brought up at the November meeting.
- b. There will be a nutritionist coming to the Senior Center on December 2, 2022 at 12:15. She will discuss how to make yourself a nutritious meal at a reduced price which includes purchasing food from the Dollar Tree. She will also bring some items with her.
- c. Ms. Brady has been asked where and how to properly dispose batteries. In her research, she has found that home batteries such as AA, AAA, C and D batteries can be disposed in your own trash. These do not contain mercury. Other type batteries such as lithium, re-chargeable and car batteries need to be disposed differently. Ms. Brady stated most Home Depots have battery disposable bins. There is also a company named Batteries Plus Bulbs. They have locations in Marlborough and Seekonk MA as well as Manchester CT. This is a chain-store, and they will accept all kinds of batteries.
- d. There is information on the SHINE program on the table in the Senior Center. Open enrollment will be from October 15, 2022, through December 7, 2022. Individuals should receive by mail any and all changes of their insurance pricing and benefit changes. Dudley no longer has a SHINE representative, but people can call the regional office at (508) 422-9931.

- e. Ms. Brady wrote two grant letters. Both are for the Memory Café entertainment. The first one is for April. The entertainer would be Van Egmond who is a folk singer & storyteller. His program will be “Hats off to Seniors”. The Second would be Davis Bates for May. His program is “Celebrating the Season: Songs and Stories for Mother’s and Father’s Day”. She will not know if these grants are awarded until January 2023. Ms. Marlborough asked Ms. Brady if she were aware of any grants for painting classes. She stated no. She informed the Board she didn’t know about this grant program until September and the deadline was October 15, 2022. Ms. Marlborough stated she had two people call her regarding painting classes for the seniors. Ms. Brady suggested requesting a grant next year for these. Ms. Marlborough will have a conversation with some of the librarians to see how they go about setting these painting classes up.
- f. Ms. Marlborough stated Lorri Ducharme, owner of Prestige Salon, would like to do a program for both male and female seniors, as well as veterans, to educate them on how important foot care is. Prestige is a very sterile environment. They treat diabetics, cancer patients, patients who are re-growing their nails etc. Ms. Marlborough will speak with Ms. Ducharme next week.
- g. Ms. Hickey asked if there was a menu for the next Memory Café. They decided to serve pizza and salad.
- h. It was decided to hold the Thanksgiving dinner a week before Thanksgiving. Many people travel the week of Thanksgiving so there would not be a good turnout. This will be held on November 18, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Board will supply this homecooked meal. There will be a turkey, Ms. Brady will bring cranberry sauce and a pan cake, Ms. Leyden will make a tossed salad, Ms. Marlborough will make stuffing, Ms. Cormier will make butternut squash and can bring rolls if no one can bring them, Ms. Hickey will make sweet potatoes and Ms. D’Ambra will make mashed potatoes and gravy. Mr. Rogerson will not be able to attend or help with the meal as he will be busy with assisting veterans with Thanksgiving dinners. This is done 4-5 days before Thanksgiving. Mr. Rogerson stated if he has any leftovers, they are usually donated to the Senior Center.
- i. Mr. Rogerson asked how things were going in the Senior Center and if services are being met. Ms. Brady stated these services were being met. Ms. Hickey said there was some confusion with a few seniors as to the dates of the meals. There have been a few new seniors who have come to the Senior Center. The Bemis Farm workshops are going well. There is yoga on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. as well as the knitting group and card playing. Everyone is waiting for a new Director. Ms. Brady stated there have been no changes being made and is just maintaining the Senior Center to keep it running until a new Director is hired. Mr. Rogerson stated he was receiving telephone calls from seniors and senior veterans. He explains the Town is looking for a new Director and nothing has changed, and all services are still in place. He receives a lot of calls for heating. Ms. Marlborough posted on Facebook regarding help from Mass Save. It shows by income if you are available for assistance. She will try to find the post and re-post it. Ms. Brady stated there are many things she cannot help the seniors with, but she gives the names and telephone numbers for the resources that are available. Mr. Rogerson stated most help is for the indignant. It is very hard for many to receive assistance. Ms. Marlborough stated she would print out the information for Mass Save and post it on the door in the Senior Center and will give a copy to Mr. Rogerson.
- j. Ms. Brady stated someone needed assistance with WRTA. They did not receive the assistance because they were not a member. They would have to go thru their insurance company to do this.

- k. Ms. D'Ambra suggested making a football day in the Senior Center for veterans on the big screen television and maybe serve snacks such as popcorn. Mr. Rogerson stated he thought many of the veterans would be interested. Ms. Brady will check to see if she can get the regular cable channels on the television first. Ms. Marlborough will take a look at the television the next time she comes in to see if she can get the stations. This may make the men more interested in the Senior Center. Mr. Rogerson agreed that trying new things would be good. He mentioned there are a lot of women veterans as well. He also stated that Ms. Hickey is a retired Lt. Colonel in the United States Air Force. She was a nurse.
- l. Mr. Rogerson informed the Council he would be away all next week in Leominster to attend a veterans' conference for training. He stated he has had more activity in his office due to the Camp Lejeune commercials on television. There are some concerns with this, and they will be addressed at the conference. He explained Camp Lejeune was a Marine and Naval base. The water on the base was poisonous from 1958 until the late 1980's. People became very sick from this and the veteran, in many instances, are receiving medical care but no disability compensation. This is being addressed in Federal Court in North Carolina, the only state that is going to handle it as this is where the base was located. They will be allowed to sue the Federal Government and Congress is going to allow this. There has been a bill signed. The issue with the commercial is they want the Veterans to sign up with their attorneys. They are being told the attorneys could make up to 40% of the settlement. He stated, any claim done in the Veterans office is no charge. This is all part of the Veteran's Services they offer. Ms. Marlborough asked Mr. Rogerson if he advertised this in the newspaper. Mr. Rogerson stated he attended a training session with the attorneys that represent the veterans, and they advised the attendees they cannot advise either way what to do. Those Veterans Mr. Rogerson spoke with were advised to be careful with signing up with an attorney when it goes to court, they get a big chunk of the settlement. Ms. Marlborough asked if it would be in the best interest of the Veteran if Mr. Rogerson put something in the newspaper stating that it would be in their best interest to speak with their local Veteran's Office before moving forward with a claim. Mr. Rogerson stated he has been working on something. He has been communicating with the Veterans he knows in the community and as past commander of the VFW, he has spoken to them as well when they had their meeting at the American Legion. He is hoping to get a better understanding of this matter at the conference next week. He does not want to put anything in the newspaper without having all the facts first.
- m. Ms. Brady stated there is no coordinator report as she is interim and incorporated everything into the meeting.

The next council on aging will be held on November 15, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. in the Dudley Municipal Complex, Veterans Memorial Hall, Room 321A.

Ms. D'Ambra made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hickey seconded. Unanimous. Passed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa L. Berg