

**Truro Council on Aging
Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
September 11, 2024**

PRESENT: Dan Schreiner, Apryl Shenk, Kevin Grunwald, Carol Bishop, Deborah Smulian; Jim Brown, Friends of the Truro COA; Sue Girard-Irwin, Select Board; Michelle Peter, Director. **GUEST:** John Marksbury.

- Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm. Apryl moved and Kevin seconded a motion to approve the July minutes. Unanimous approval.
- Michelle shared Georgette's report and then reviewed upcoming activities.
- Michelle asked if a board member or two could attend her "Scoop" which will happen after the Thursday luncheon on September 26. This is an opportunity for members to connect, ask questions, make suggestions. There will be ice cream.
- The annual health fair will be held October 17, from 10 am to 1 pm.
- Discussion occurred regarding the cancelled workshop called, "Are you religious or are you spiritual? Michelle explained the sequence of events that led to the cancellation. She reported that in hindsight she might wait and not cancel so quickly.
- Discussion occurred regarding the meaning of separation of church and state.
- Sue reported what she knew about the complaint that was received by a Select Board member.
- Guest, John Marksbury joined the conversation and stated that he and two others had planned to attend and were disappointed that it was cancelled at the last minute. He disagreed that the workshop was a violation of the church and state law. He is the moderator at the Truro Congregational Church that sponsored the workshop.
- There was agreement that it would be beneficial to look into the issue of the separation of church and state further. Maybe offer a forum on the issue at some point. Mr. Marksbury brought up Christian Nationalism as a concern.
- The scheduling of new focus groups was discussed and it was decided to wait until spring. The date we choose should consider when Annual Town Meeting and elections are being held.
- Brief discussion occurred regarding the Senior Needs Assessment. Dan brought copies of other Outer Cape town's assessments. The Select Board is working on this and Sue promised we would hear about any decisions about it.
- It was decided that the next meeting would be held at 8 am so that Apryl can attend. We'll see how it goes regarding whether to make it our new regular time.
- Jim Brown reported that the Friends are late getting their annual membership letter out, due to Sir Speedy closing.
- Next meeting is Wednesday, October 9, at 8 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Black

