# **St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)**

# **Advisory Council Meeting Minutes**

# **February 12, 2024**

**Meeting called to order:** 10:00 AM by Roger Bennett, Chairman

**Present:** *(voting members)* Roger Bennett, Larry Denesha, Barb McBurnie. Linda Wilkinson, Russ Backus, Joan Howlett

**Present:** *(non-voting members):* Jacob Kormanyos, Chiara Delosh, Andrea Montgomery

**Absent:** Michael Boprey, Mary Jones, Carly Zimmerman, Carly Zimmerman, Brenda Sanderson, Matt Manierre, Kathy Skelly, Gail Teele

**Public Attending:** Myrtle Regan

**Meeting Location:** HSC

**♦Introductions** –Meeting brought to order by R. Bennett. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and Moment of Reflection. Welcome and introductions.

**♦Guest Speaker** – Andrea Montgomery, OFA Director- NYS Budget and Advocacy Needs. Andrea will email this information to everyone.

**♦Public Comment** – None.

♦**Approval/Minutes** – motion to approve minutes by B. McBurnie, seconded by L. Wilkinson, all in favor. Motion passed.

♦**Correspondence** – None

**♦Old Business**– None.

**♦New Business** – Updates as follows in reports below.

New Officers-

* Linda Wilkinson- Chair
* Russ Backus- Vice Chair
* Joan Howlett- Correspondence Secretary.

All in favor.

**County Legislator’s Report** – *(Larry Denesha)* January meeting reelected David Forsythe as chair and Rick Perkins as Vice Chair. Sales taxes continues and they aren’t growing at the same rate as the last few years. Resolution for paving projects through the Highway Department were passed. Funds are being cut for school aides. Passing a resolution to help with no reduction in school aides.

**Public Health Report** – *(Carly Zimmerman)* None.

**County Council of Senior Citizens Report** – *(Brenda Sanderson)* None. Linda did mention that the next meeting will be Thursday, March 14 @ 10 at the Midtown Apartments in Potsdam.

**StateWide Senior Action Council Report** – *(Barb McBurnie)* There will be a patient’s advocacy program teach in on February 27 from 10 AM-11 AM. The topic will be focusing on Mental Hygiene Legal Service Program. You can either join through zoom or call in. This month is fraud prevention for SMP. They are reminding people to protect against genetic testing scams. The Annual Convention will be at the Embassy Suites in Saratoga Springs from October 21-23. Been having problems finding meeting locations. Their next meeting will be Thursday, March 7 @ 10 AM at the Midtown Apartments in Potsdam.

**Veterans Services Report** – *(Mike Boprey)* None

**AARP Report** – *(No Rep)* No Report.

**Members Updates** – Russ Backus said that the Office of Disabilities are facing the same funding issues that the Office for the Aging are facing. There will be an event the next couple of days down in Albany to speak about the budget.

**Office for the Aging Report** – *(Andrea Montgomery)*

* Keyboard Specialist and Secretary 1 positions are still opened.
* United Helpers closing Assisted Living facility in Canton.
* Hoping to expand the Caregiver Support Group to Massena and possibly offering a virtual option.
* 2024 Plans- Trainings for staff.
* Hospice and OFA will be doing Packing List for Your Life’s Journey.
* Bringing back Telephone Reassurance Program. Once a week an individual will get a friendly call.
* Will be bringing back Computer Classes. Will have a few staff members to assist with this.
* National Volunteer Week is April 21st-April 27th.
* Will be holding a Spring Fling on April 11 from 10:30-1:30 from Hermon Fire Hall.
* Senior Year Awards.

**♦Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by J. Howlett, seconded by R. Backus, all in favor. R. Bennett adjourned meeting.

**♦Next Meeting** – Monday, April 8th, 2024 at 10AM (Through Zoom)

*(Electronic Meeting Minutes respectfully submitted by Chiara Delosh)*