

**Nantucket Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

Members present: Robert Kucharavy, Mary Anne Easley, Diane Flaherty, Rocky Fox, Lisa Sherburne, Linda Williams

Members absent: Kelsea Gray, Erin Lynch, Arlene O'Reilly

Staff present: Jerico Mele, Laura Stewart

Guests: Brenda Johnson (arrived 3:24 p.m.)

As a quorum was present, Chair Robert Kucharavy called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mary Anne Easley moved to approve the agenda; Lisa Sherburne second. Unanimous approval.

The main business of the meeting was a review of the 2025 Senior Expo led by co-chair of the event Easley (co-chair Brenda Johnson contributed later when she arrived). The Senior Expo, held October 18, was a resounding success as indicated by formal surveys of both vendors and attendees. One hundred percent of completed surveys rated it either Excellent or Good. There were 215 participants: 47 vendors/speakers represented by 92 people, plus 103 attendees and 20 volunteers. Collaboration between the Council on Aging, Nantucket Center for Elder Affairs and Nantucket Rotary was very successful. A thank-you event for volunteers is planned for December 10 at Sherburne Commons. Co-chairs Easley and Johnson are preparing a full report of the Expo that will be distributed to all COA members.

Discussion followed and it was concluded the event should be repeated annually (as opposed to bi-annually) and in the fall (spring option was considered and ruled out). The high school is a favored location, although the Hall of the Whale can be oppressively hot (reflected in vendors' complaints). Relocating to the gym and investigating the special floor

covering required was approved. Another issue is incoming light in some locations that interferes with vendors' laptops.

Offering vaccines (flu and Covid) has always drawn people to the event, and Jerico Mele enumerated the processes and problems with acquiring vaccines. This year, 41 people received vaccines at the Expo.

Brenda Johnson suggested applying for a grant to support the Expo.

Chair Kucharavy reported on the recent legislative breakfast hosted by Elder Services of Cape Cod & the Islands. Senator Julian Cyr painted a bleak picture of the near future, with shrinking funding, and said with limited funds we will need to re-think everything.

The increasing problem of fraud and scams affecting seniors was briefly discussed. ESCCI's fraud expert is scheduled for a presentation at the Saltmarsh in the near future.

As all business on the agenda was concluded, at 3:36 p.m., Linda Williams moved to adjourn the meeting; Diane Flaherty second. All approved.