

Town of Barnstable  
Council on Aging  
Minutes  
March 19, 2025, 9 AM

Present: John Jope, Kathy Turnbull, Kathy Strudwick, Ellen Queeney, Tom Coyle, Christine Beer  
Guests: Tess August, Kelly Howley, Mary Taylor, Stephanie Parish

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM, and there was a quorum.
2. No citizen public comments were presented.
3. The meeting minutes from February 19, 2025 were presented for discussion. No corrections were requested. Upon a motion made by Tom Coyle, duly seconded by John Jope, the minutes were approved.
4. Mary Taylor, BACC Outreach Coordinator, provided an overview of BACC programming aimed at improving digital literacy. As an example, the Tech Café sessions have been well attended. Participants learn general digital literacy skills and are supported with specific real-life tasks involving digital skills.
5. Tess August, reported that Friends of Barnstable Council on Aging (FBCOA) is in process of dissolution due to a lack of volunteers to administer the non-profit organization. FBCOA has fundraised for about 30 years to support elder service projects in Barnstable. In November 2024, four FBCOA board members announced their retirement from FBCOA. Tess August, having served on the board for many years and currently serving as FBCOA Treasurer, will retire in 2025. A search for volunteers involved contacting about 400 individuals. No volunteers came forward with a commitment to serve on the FBCOA. The FBCOA will review proposals in for projects, and the remaining \$25,000 in FBCOA funds will be granted to a non-profit organization before the FBCOA diss.
6. Council Chair, John Jope, provided remarks related to pending approvals for the Council. In October 2024, two items were submitted to the Town for approval: updated Council Bylaws and a requested member change, from adjunct to voting member. There is yet no update related to the requests.
7. Kelly Howley, BACC Director, gave an overview of an email from Paula Schepp, Town Council Liaison, which outlined Town approval to fund the insurance deductible related to the water damage in the BACC facility. The approval is required to proceed with facility repairs. Kelly Howley highlighted recent programs which have resulted in high participation, such as the St Patrick's Day social event, an art and gift card program, and the high demand for transportation services. A Thursday Lunch Program will be provided for a two-month trial period. In March, BCAA will host an event to celebrate

the 105<sup>th</sup> birthday for the Freeman K. Johnson, the oldest survivor of the Pearl Harbor attack on Dec. 7, 1941.

Working Group Reports:

-KISS: Tom Coyle gave an overview of how the working group is involving volunteers to plan ways to improve access to digital technology for visitors to BACC.

-Dunn's Trail: John Jope reported ongoing exploration of how trails currently utilized, and potential projects which, if funded, would make the trail more accessible to elderly adults.

Upon a motion made by Tom Coyle, duly seconded by John Jope, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

Minutes recorded by  
Christine Beer