

Harvard Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
September 21, 2009

Present: Janice Goodell, Sharon Briggs, Connie Larrabee, Barbara Kemp, Bill Mohn,
Mike Peters, Carlene Phillips, Colleen Nigzus, Ginger Quarles
Absent: Fran Nickerson

Call to Order: 7 p.m.

Minutes approved: After reviewing minutes from the February and June board meetings, and August and September planning meetings, all minutes were approved.

Treasurer's report: Although some of the required information was still not available, the board approved the treasurer's report as submitted.

COA Barbeque: Colleen distributed a sign-up sheet so board members could indicate what items they would contribute to the barbeque. Mike volunteered to make sure the grills are in working order and to bring one from home as well. Colleen reported that Bromfield Student Council members were being recruited to help out.

Fashion Show: Ginger reported that ticket sales had been slow this year, possibly because the elementary school curriculum night was scheduled for the same time as the fashion show.

Strategic Plan: Sharon suggested the formation of teams of board members to address the three main areas we agreed to focus on this year: housing, public relations/communications, and volunteer coordination. Jan and Barbara volunteered to follow the housing issue, and will contact the Conservation Trust to see what's happening with the Barba land. Carlene, Connie, and Colleen will work on public relations, including redefining the COA's mission, designing a new brochure, and writing newspaper articles on COA activities. Sharon and Mike will work on volunteer coordination, including the development of a pool of volunteers willing to help elders with small maintenance projects.

Board liaisons: The following board members volunteered to serve as liaisons to town committees: Board of Selectmen – Jan Goodell

School Committee - Colleen Nigzus

Finance Committee - Connie Larrabee

Cable Committee - Mike Peters

Tax work-off: Sharon would like somebody to take this job off her hands and will look for a volunteer to do that.

Seniors Helping Seniors: Colleen will see if this valuable program will be operational this year. Ginger said that she has usually heard by this time if any students are interested in participating.

Director's Report:

Carlene asked if the Garden Club could partner with the COA for a trip to Tower Hill in the town van. Ginger had no objection to sponsoring such a trip, but said seniors would have to take precedence if the van were used.

Ginger reported that she has hired four new teachers over the summer: one yoga teacher, two aerobics teachers, and a Tai Chi instructor. After October 1, all classes will be held in the old library while the Congregational Church undergoes renovations.

The weekly Men's Club continues to go well, with six or seven regular attendees.

There will be a free Ann Bolyn performance at 11 a.m. on November 12 at the new library, including snacks appropriate for the historical period.

Ginger reported that the new town website is taking shape, and she has high hopes for the COA web page,

Flu shots will be given at the Hildreth House on October 20 from 1 to 3 p.m., and on November 17 from 1 to 2 p.m. There is no charge for the shots, which are available for anyone, not just seniors. Colleen said that only seasonal flu shots will be given in October, but she wasn't sure about November.

Senator Jamie Eldridge will visit Hildreth House on October 28 from 1 to 2 p.m. to talk with any seniors who are interested.

The veterans agent will come to explain VA benefits on November 10 from 1 to 2 p.m.

The Girl Scouts will hold a Holiday Tea for seniors on December 16 at St. Theresa's.

The office will be closed Wednesday, September 30, and Friday, October 2 while Ginger is away. Maria will be in Monday and Tuesday, and Bill will be there Wednesday and Thursday mornings, and will check the telephone messages Friday.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Connie Larrabee