

**COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD**  
**REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES**  
**Veteran's Memorial Building, Rm 19**  
**2900 Main Street, Millis, MA 02054**  
**MEETING NOTES FROM January 13, 2017**

CALL TO ORDER: Mary Skilling called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

The following persons were present: COA Director Patty Kayo, Secretary Helen Daly, Kaplan Hasanoglu, Brooks Corl, Mary Skilling, Bill Brown, Maria Neville, Gail Douglas, Mary Russo, Brian Riley  
Secretary's report accepted as written

Motion to accept report made by Kaplan, seconded by Maria

Treasurer's Report

Not as yet ready – Gunbhusan will have figures later in the day

HESSCO Report

- November and January reports are available – no meeting notes from December
- Highlights from both reports are that Financial Reports are still behind pending update from the newly hired accountant. \$400K was written off as “Bad Debt” and they are in the process of hiring someone to rectify.
- Norfolk offers “Chair Volleyball” and “Mystery Ride” programs – something for Millis to think about?
- A 3% across the board pay rise was voted
- A new laundry provider was hired to service the home health care recipients.

Motion to accept report made by Kaplan, seconded by Bill

Outreach Report:

- Not available as Carol is out ill
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Director's Report

- St. Patrick's Day entertainment will begin at 12:30 on 3/15. Mary making the corned beef and cabbage dinner to be served at Noon. Patty will check with the school to see if students are available to help with serving and clean-up.
- Mary Russo requests that special functions are not scheduled on Wednesdays and Saturdays as they interfere with regularly scheduled events, i.e. Sing-a-long and Bingo. We will try to schedule events on Monday and Fridays – problem is short staffing. No staff available on Tuesday and Thursdays.
- Judy O'Gara has contacted Patty regarding writing an article for the newspaper about the Valentine's Day Tea to be held on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Patty will ask Carol Fetter if she could help with the presentation – it was suggested that each attendee bring their own tea cup to decorate. It was also suggested by Brian that we think about having a breakfast instead which would include more of the male population. Discussion about asking McDonald's to provide Breakfast sandwiches and Roche Bros to provide a fruit platter. Breakfast would be served at 9am. Another option would be to ask Bill Raymond if he would be willing to cook a breakfast – problem being we need to be out of the kitchen by 9am to accommodate HESSCO.
- It was suggested that Judy O'Gara could perhaps write a more in depth article about the Senior Center and the COA and what it is we hope to accomplish in the town for our Senior Population. Gail Douglas spoke about the need to make town wide attention focused on our seniors. We need to find a way to get the entire town – businesses, police, select persons, town administrator to be more knowledgeable of senior needs. Days when it is hot that seniors are seen walking around Roche Bros or sitting at the Library to be cool as well as days in the winter when the weather is cold and their homes are not warm enough to be in. The data of those cases where we service seniors in trouble must be made known in order for all to realize the need. How can we incentivize the town boards and the community to

participate in reaching the young (55 year old) seniors to begin to help with the process as these services are what they will probably be needing in the near future. What is the value of thinking of our ageing population? What is good for the community as a whole? More seniors will be coming into town

- With the addition of the Glen Ellen over 55 housing – Annual Town reports show that there has been a 72% increase in the senior population since 2004 with the projected increase in senior population increasing by 105%.
- Kaplan suggests that the elders need to find a way to represent themselves – a “Meet and Greet” meeting is being planned by Patty and Kaplan to invite a Selectperson, a member of the Finance Committee and the new Town Administrator to attend during the day, as seniors find it difficult to attend evening meetings especially in the winter months. Patty already has at least 20 people sign up to come and try to discuss their needs as a senior in the Town of Millis.
- Brian has brought a survey from Dennis that was presented to the seniors of that town and he suggests that we review that survey, put together one of our own and get it into the hands of as many seniors as possible to fill out, thereby giving us a good handle on what is being seen through their eyes.
- Patty has a Power Point presentation ready with figures to present at that meeting and time will be set aside for each person to have a chance to speak. Kaplan suggests that we do this under the “Millis Public Forum” format and ask Madeline Yusna to record and televise it.
- Mary Russo has spoken to State Rep. Linsky and Town administration about thinking about rescheduling our Town Meetings from evenings to Saturdays due to the difficulties seniors face getting to Town Meeting.
- Much thanks was given to Gail Douglas for her time and input – she will be working with Patty to pursue some ideas that have been mentioned at this meeting.

Motion to accept report made by Kaplan, seconded by Maria

#### Chairman’s Report

- Mary mentions the Y Fitness Program – the funding for the first 16 weeks of this program was funded by the Y. Funding from the next session scheduled to start in February will be paid for by the participants by a \$100.00 fee for the next 16 week session. It’s hoped that we will have enough Millis residents to continue to hold these classes here.
- There will be 2 weeks out of the 16 week program that we will conflict with the Rec. Dept in usage of the gym. Those 2 weeks could probably be held in Rm 18 or outside.
- Helen requests that a rug be placed in the hall at the back gym entrance as many of the participants come in that door. Their feet could possibly be wet from walking across the grass and a slipping hazard exits.
- Brian suggests that Gail’s proposals be part of a long term plan for our seniors.
- Mary will resign from the Board at the end of January – her formal letter of resignation will be forthcoming to the Board and to the Selectmen.
- We need to find some new people to serve on the board as 7 is the required number.

#### Old Business

- All covered above

#### New Business

- All covered above

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Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Kaplan, seconded by Bill

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM

**Next COA Board Meeting: February 10 at 9:00 AM – VMB Room 19**

