

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held January 14, 2010

Members Present: Elizabeth Tobey, Newton Wesley, Alice Olsen, Ruth Delmonico, Gus Stathis

Associate Members Present: William Bryon, Brian Burke arrived at 9:37 A. M.

The Director of the COA, Alyson Toole was also in attendance

Absent: Nancy Chaisson, Paul Chaisson, Kristen Donovan, Jo Langley, Kate Hogan, and Eleanor Beaudette.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:09 am with Chairman Elizabeth Tobey presiding.

Secretary's Report: The board unanimously approved the minutes of the December 10, 2009 meeting.

Senior Center Sub-Committee Report: Gus Stathis along with Jim Sauta will apply to the Pompo School Study Committee, a town committee to decide on the use of Pompositticut School once the new school is completed.. Since the COA is very interested in acquiring the space, Gus suggested that the members of this committee should meet at the Friendship Room on Thursday, January 21 at 3:30 to begin preparations for the COA's proposal. Alyson will speak with the leaders of the Mealsite and exercise classes to determine space needs. She will also contact neighboring COA's to inquire about their process and space allotments. Brian Burke would like to be a member of this study group.

Liaisons Reports: Alyson informed the committee that Nancy Chaisson was stepping down as liaison to Minuteman Senior Services. She formerly attended meetings in Burlington. The liaisons from the Finance Committee and Selectmen are being sent agenda and minutes of the COA Board meetings.

Chair's Report:

- Elizabeth questioned why there were no summer meetings. She proposed meeting through the months of July and August. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.
- We are still short one voting member. Currently we have six and we need to have seven.

Director's Report:

- Bill Wrigley informed Alyson of the Poor Farm Fund, now called the Town Farm Fund. Three appointed members will join the COA Director and a selectman.
- COA budget has been submitted to Mr. Wrigley. After review, it will go to the town meeting.
- **Newsletter:** The printer who we've used is going out of business. The cost is about \$550.00 per month. Some of the monies come from the state which pays

\$7.00 per senior. The remainder of the money comes from the Friends. The Senior Citizens Publishing Company will print our newsletter free of charge. They make their money from the advertisements. This will be an agenda item for our February meeting.

- Alyson discussed her frustration with the current receptionist position. In one week ten different people answer the phone and give information to callers. Many times there's uncertainty about how to handle situations. It is very time consuming for the director to constantly handle routine calls. Much discussion followed. Brian Burke suggested beginning with a paid half-time position who would oversee the volunteers in the afternoon slots.
- **The Holiday Luncheon** and the **Happy Noon Year** were well attended and very successful.
- **The Tax Work-off Program** will be starting. The Assessors Board developed the criteria. Twenty participants can work off \$1000 from their taxes by working 125 hours. Alyson has developed an application and will have a fact sheet with all the information.
- The monthly billing to MART is working out.
- The Large van is coming off the road due to many mechanical issues.
- **Soup's On Program** began in December and will go through March serving patrons on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. It's very successful.

Outreach Coordinators' Reports:

Suzanne Howley: Presented the details of her program, the crafts projects are being planned and advertised in advance; continues home visits, Skype program was well attended ; Prison Lunch is popular; January 21, a professional organizer will be presenting.

Sharon Funkhouser: The Happy Noon Year was held at the Mealsite. Lunch was enhanced with appetizers, party favors, and desserts. New programs are trying to reach a new audience, Learn to Skype, Lawyer for a Day, Get Organized and Introduction to Wii. **The lunch bunch** enjoys trips to area restaurants. Trips to Independent and Assisted Living facilities have been scheduled to give seniors options for the future. Outreach has assisted a family that was burned out last week. Also, a family ran out of oil and a generous citizen of Stow contributed \$100 with the intent of helping a needy family. It came at a perfect time. The boy scouts have been delivering sand to seniors. The second graders in Mrs. Plumb's class are active penpals with some of the seniors. Also, medical equipment is loaned, questions answered, and reassurance calls are made.

Coming in February: Fire Station Tour, Tour & Tasting of Wachusett Brewery, the R.I. Flower show, and the Valentine Tea

Old Business: None

New Business: Brian Burke suggested setting up a calendar of events bringing in the activities from the neighboring councils. Elizabeth volunteered to set up a website for this purpose.

Sunshine Fund: No activity, collected \$2 from each board member present

Meeting Schedule for 2010:

January 14	July 8
February 11	August 12
March 11	September 9
April 8	October 14
May 13	November 11
June 10	December 9

Adjourn: Upon motion duly made, seconded, and approved the meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

Next Meeting: February 14, 2010

Respectfully Submitted:

Ruth Delmonico