

## **COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING**

### **Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held March 11, 2010**

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

**Associate Members Present:** Kate Hogan, William Byron, Jo Langley, Brian Burke (arrived @ 9:25)

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

**Absent:** Paul Chaisson, Nancy Chaisson, Eleanor Beaudette, Kristen Donovan

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

**Secretary's Report:** The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the February 11, 2010 meeting as presented.

**Liaison Reports:** Gus Stathis, the Chair of the New Senior Center Sub Committee reported that Task Force members have not been selected yet. Paul Chaisson applied to the committee. Other town members are slow to come forward. We need to determine the space that neighboring councils have. Presently we have only about 1,500 square feet. We need 8 to 10,000 square feet.

Bill Byron, the liaison to the Community Preservation Committee, updated the Board on recent plans. Monies will be given to the Historical Commission and Cemetery Committee..

#### **Chair's Report:**

- A request was made to Avidia Bank for a \$6,000 grant for the purchase of a used 20 seat van.
- We need to purchase a new laptop for training purposes; it will be used with the new flat screen television.

#### **Director's Report:**

- Training was held for receptionists and a handbook for reference was developed.
- MART is being billed each month . Monies received go back into the General Fund.
- In the Town Annual Report, the C. O. A. reported that 700 seniors went on 7,000 trips, and traveled 28,700 miles.
- On March 31, the Independent will contain the C. O. A. newsletter. Staff from the Independent is working with us to improve our format.
- Thanks to the Friends, we have a 58" Samsung multi-purpose television. It can connect to a computer for presentations and slide shows.
- A family from Stow donated a Wii for the C. O. A.
- We will have a float in the May 15, Springfest parade. The theme is "Senior Olympics." We need to get a committee to organize this.

- The Tax Work Off Program is full with 20 participants. Every January, the Director meets with the Treasurer and Assessors to work out the details. The Assessors' Office sets the dollar amount. It is a huge responsibility for the Director to follow every person involved. It's a problem that needs to be addressed with the Assessors' Office.
- Getting Organized – Working with a professional organizer to better utilize our space.

### **Outreach Coordinators Reports**

Suzanne Howley:

- Has provided fuel and food assistance to needy
- Crafts class is better attended since scheduling topics
- Town Nurse is being kept informed of people who have refused services.
- Town Nurse will present a program on ticks in April.
- Toyota Recall Notice has been publicized since many seniors drive Toyotas.
- Bob Mong will be giving one-on-one computer help beginning in April.
- Elizabeth Tobey will continue to address technical issues in the newsletter.

Sharon Funkhouser:

- Introducing new technology, Skype and Slingbox, which enables a person to watch television away from home. Serge Kogan will present Slingbox on March 16/
- New television has capacity to interface with computer for Power Point presentations.
- Stow Independent is revising our newsletter format.
- Since the Independent will reach every home, we hope to attract more people to the C. O. A.
- We continue to visit Assisted Living facilities. This month we've gone to Newbury Court and next month to Orchard Hill. The visit entails a tour then a complimentary lunch.
- Looking ahead, Quilt Show at the Fuller Museum in Brockton in April, Edible wild plants in May, cooking class coming soon.
- Continue to deliver birthday cakes
- Volunteer training went well; the handbook is at the front desk.
- We're partnering with the food pantry to deliver food to homebound seniors.

**Old Business:** The vice chair, Newton Wesley, addressed the Receptionist Position. Could a full or part-time employee be paid through a stipend? The Town Accountant believes this to be a very complicated issue leaving the town liable.

**No new Business**

**Adjourn:** Upon motion duly made, seconded, and approved the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A. M.

**Next Meeting** – April 8, 2010

**Respectfully submitted**  
**Ruth Delmonico**

