

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held May 13, 2010

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

Associate Members: Jo Langley and Kristen Donovan, arrived at 9:35A. M.

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

Absent: Paul Chaisson, Nancy Chaisson, Eleanor Beaudette, Newton Wesley, Bill Bryon, Kate Hogan, and Brian Burke

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:14 A.M. with Chairman, Elizabeth Tobey presiding.

Secretary's Report: The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the April 8, 2010 meeting as presented.

Liaison Reports: Chairman Tobey represented Stow at the Minuteman Board Meeting held in Burlington on May 5th. Sixteen towns are part of the Minuteman Senior Services system which provide meals and other services. Besides senior services, they raise funds to benefit its members. This year they have raised over \$200,000. Occasionally, the Board meets in other venues. Next month, their meeting will be at Brookhaven, an assisted living community, in Lexington.

Jo Langley representing the Friends of the COA mentioned the upcoming Craft Fair and Pancake Breakfast at Springfest.

Chair's Report: Elizabeth will be sending letters to businesses asking for donations to help us purchase a new or used 20 person van. Our old one has 190,000 miles on it! Avidia has sent \$3,000.

Director's Report:

- Van driver, Lisa Scesny, passed away one month ago. A memory book will be developed for the family. Many community members are sending contributions to the COA in her memory. At a future time, yet to be determined, a ceremony will be organized in her honor.
- The Office of Elder Affairs contributes \$7 for every senior in a community. We've received \$5260 which helps pay for Outreach and the newsletter.
- Our old television went for \$100.
- Our newsletter is reaching every household, and we're getting positive feedback.
- The Community Chest is developing a needs assessment. They are focusing on a five year plan. There is no social services agency in town and everything falls into the domain of the COA. They are looking into having a Social Worker who can deal with some of the issues.

- Richard DeMilia made a beautiful oak cabinet to hold components for our new television.
- Birthday cakes are made by volunteers to honor seniors on their 85th, 90th, 95th, 100th, and 105th birthdays. A thank you was received by a grateful recipient.
- The professional organizer will be coming in again to help organize the Craft Closet.
- Associate member and art teacher, Kristen Donovan, has volunteered to decorate the float for the Springfest Parade. She still needs people to help.

Outreach Coordinators Reports

Sharon Funkhouser:

- The **Volunteer Luncheon** was held during National Volunteer Week with 46 people attending. There was entertainment and guest speaker, Emmett Schmarsow, who is from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Jim Sauta was recognized as the Unsung Hero . There were gifts and raffles.
- There has been extra work for volunteer drivers since Lisa's death.
- Outreach continues to visit rehabs, hospitals, and homes.
- The needs assessment by the Community Chest will be very beneficial.
- This month we have a trip to WGBH, a workshop on edible wild plants, the Mt. Auburn Cemetery, and the Winery in Bolton for wine tasting and lunch.
- In June, we have the State House tour, Trip to Castle Island, and a visit to the Seabrook Science Center

Suzanne Howley:

- We're still reeling from the tragic death of Lisa Scesny. There will be a permanent memorial in her honor.
- The Senior Conference dealt with consumer issues and the number of falling accidents of elders.
- The craft group continues to grow.
- The prison lunch is very popular.
- I continue home visits.
- Adaptive telephone are available for hearing impaired at low cost or no cost.
- Visits to museums are well attended.
- Police Officer, Mike Salese, an expert on computer fraud, will come in at a future date.
- "Healing Power of Laughter" will be scheduled soon.
- Elizabeth Tobey will conduct a computer workshop on the 1st Wednesday of each month.

Other Business:

Gus suggested changing the COA's Board meeting time to encourage better attendance. We should survey members to determine the best time.

Adjourn: Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 10:34.

Next Meeting: June 10, 2010

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Delmonico

