

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING

Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held on Thursday, November 18, 2010

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

Associate Members Present: William Byron, Ellie Beaudette, Jo Langley (left at 10:45)

Absent: Paul Chaisson, Nancy Chaisson, Kate Hogan, Brian Burke

The Director of the COA, Alyson Toole, and **Outreach workers**, Sharon Funkhouser and Suzanne Howley were also in attendance.

Guest: Steve Dungan, the Selectman liaison to the COA was present.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. with Chairman, Kristen Donovan presiding.

Secretary's Report: The board unanimously approved the minutes of the October 14, 2010 meeting as submitted.

Liaison Reports:

- Steve reviewed the results of the Special Town Meeting. Low cost loans are available to home owners in Harvard Acres who need wells dug. Selectmen are hopeful the Deerfield Lane water project will proceed to provide water to businesses and the expansion of Plantation Apartments. Also, there are plans to expand the Pilot Grove Apartments.
- Gus and Beth, members of the Pompo Task Force, related that the architect will look into the space needs of each group interested in Pompositticut and develop a plan.

Chair's Report:

- Kate Hogan is looking into grants the C. O. A. can access to help finance and outfit the space at Pompositticut
- Looking into enhancing the Veterans' Breakfast with entertainment. Will contact the Veterans' Agent, Brian Stearns, about fundraising.
- On Dec. 4, there will be a used decoration sale at the C. O. A.
- On Dec. 6, there will be an intergenerational cookie swap from 3:30 – 5:30 P. M.
- On Nov. 23, there will be a meeting of all the town boards.
- The C. O. A. van policies will be changed. Scanners will be used to track client usage. Want to remove the responsibility to collect cash from the van driver, and instead have people pay ahead of time for trips and perhaps monthly for regulars. There's also a new gas policy being developed.

Director's Report:

- The budget is due to Bill Wrigley on December 23. It will be submitted to the Board at the December meeting. Only a 1% increase in wages is sanctioned for town employees.

- Cori training will take place this month; policies are changing.
- We would like to develop a pool of substitute van drivers. They must have a CDL license and be willing to travel anywhere and be able to handle wheelchair lifts.
- We are looking to hire someone to take over the craft program so Suzanne can focus on Outreach. We would like to have someone by January.
- A hairdresser with 25 years experience wants to get involved with seniors. Would cut hair for \$10.00. Need to look into this further as there is someone currently assisting seniors with home visits.
- The vans often need service and replacements. The old dodge doesn't have heat. Once our budget is exhausted for vehicle repair, the Friends help with expenses.

Outreach Coordinators Report

Sharon Funkhouser:

- The calligraphy class was conducted by a Tax Work-Off person.
- Fifteen participants enjoyed the Memoir Writing Course which was presented by a B. U. instructor. It was held on three consecutive Tuesdays.
- Mind and Body Wellness was presented by Millie Leone with suggestions to live a healthy life.
- Medicare has changes which will be discussed by our Shine representative.
- A panel discussion on successful Caregiving will take place tonight in the Town Building.
- Veterans' Breakfast was enjoyed on Veterans' Day.
- The Medical Reserve Corps held its flu clinic. Several seniors were transported to the clinic by an M. R. C. volunteer.
- Twenty-two baskets will be delivered to seniors for Thanksgiving.

Suzanne Howley:

- A number of people have shown interest in fuel assistance. There's an application packet which must be filed. Unfortunately, the federal funds have been cut in half.
- Food stamp applications are for younger clients in addition to seniors.
- Linda Cullen is our new town nurse. She's anxious to meet people in town. Her hours are 9 to 12 noon once a week on Wednesdays.

No other Business

Adjourn: Upon motion duly made, seconded and approved, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 A. M.

Next Meeting: December 9, 2010 at 10:00 A. M.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Delmonico

