

Town of Upton
Council on Aging
Upton Center, March 5, 2012

The Upton Council on Aging's regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. Those in attendance were: Judi Blandhard, Jen DeLuca, Jamie Gardner, Maria Griffin, Judith Katz, Katie Kelley, Priscilla Lukes, Bev Randazzo, and Grace Wadsworth.

The minutes from the January 9, 2012 meeting were read and accepted as amended.

Priscilla Lukes was unanimously voted in as a new member of the COA.

Men's Club Supper. Jamie reviewed the responsibilities of the COA volunteer. The center needs to be left as it was found with all items put away in their proper place. If there are too many children at the supper, let Jamie know that fact.

AA. The issue with this meeting is that there is no staff present at the center to supervise its use. Though there have been no serious issues, there are things around the center that could be stolen and might be difficult to replace in terms of insurance covering them. Jamie offered a paid position to anyone on the COA who would be willing to come on Saturdays from 1:00 to 3:00 pm. No one was interested. There is money available from the Formula Grant for such a position. Several on the COA expressed a willingness to volunteer to cover the center during the meetings. One major benefit would be that the key could be returned to Jamie. Jamie will report back at the next meeting as to a solution to this problem.

Open House is being planned for either September or October. This will replace the Grandparent's Day. The center will have a new look by that time, with carpet being installed in May, paid for by the Formula Grant. The day will have all kinds of activities, like a petting zoo, baked goods, face painting. Jamie will need the help of all members to coordinate this and will assign responsibilities next month.

Center will be closed on May 1, 2 and 3 for the installation of the new carpet. Two of those days will be needed to move and then replace the furniture. There will be no Meals on Wheels out of the center for those days.

The two high top tables do not work well in the center. They are available for anyone who could use them.

A trip to the New England Bonsai Garden Center in Bellingham is being planned for either April or May. It is open to 13 seniors. There will be a class in how to plant Bonsai. It may cost money to do the trip.

St. Patrick's Day breakfast, cooked by Jamie and staff, will offer French Toast, sausage, and hash brown potatoes. Marie, Beverly, Grace and Priscilla have volunteered to help. There will be Irish Singers from 9:30 to 10:30. The bus will be available to bring people from Coach Road.

The Out to Eat trip needs a COA member to participate, to help folks on and off the bus and to move the luncheon along, if necessary. A \$10.00 stipend will be given to pay for the member's lunch. Maria volunteered to go on this trip,

New Programming Plans: Stained Glass is scheduled for May 11 and May18. Mosaics will be made out of real glass pieces in the first session and in the second class, participants will grout their pieces. Pottery Class will be held on April 20 from 1:00-2:30, offering more patterns and more shapes. The instructor brings all the supplies, glazes the works and brings them back in gift bags. Genealogy will be held for 6 weeks. Participants will learn how to trace one side of their family tree, how to use the computer to aid in the search. There will be a trip to the Upton Historical Society and to the Province, RI genealogy center. Oil Painting in the fall. The instructor guarantees that one will learn how to paint.

Men's Club Supper is scheduled for March 30. Katie volunteered to collect tickets.

COA presence at monthly meetings. There have been several meetings without the necessary quorum. Issues cannot be discussed without a quorum so Jamie encourages all members to attend.

Judi Blanchard attended as a potential member. There are a few more opening on the Council. Jamie encourages new membership but reminded the COA that recommendations be carefully considered so that a pleasant, working group can be maintained.

Jamie reminded the COA members that they are considered staff of the town of Upton and have to be aware of the responsibility in terms of behaviors. If there is an altercation with anyone, hold one's tongue. If there are issues of conflict, speak up or get Jamie to intervene. Gossip or any type of complaining about any member or person is not to be tolerated.

Attendance for programming at the Center is up, due to the encouragement of the Staff. The use of the bus has increased and meals are up in attendance. When numbers are up for lunch, it is usually because there is an activity happening after lunch. Holly went to Coach Road and learned that only 1 out of 5 was interested in coming for the meal.

The Chairman of the Board of Selectman praised Jamie and his work at the Center and appreciated his level funded budget and is grateful that he is not overspending. There has not been an increase in 5 years in the budget. The heat and lights are off in the Center one hour in the morning before opening and one hour in the afternoon, to make sure the Center continues financially.

The Friends are dormant for one year. If not enough membership at the end of this time, they may disband. This would mean the loss of \$1600 to the center that is used for programming as well as the end to Bingo.

Funds for the Center. It is against the law to raise funds but the Center can receive unsolicited donations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Kelley
Secretary