

Town of Upton
Council on Aging
Upton Center, April 2, 2012

The Upton Council on Aging's regular monthly meeting was called to order at 9:00A.M. Those in attendance were: Judi Blanchard, Betty Consigli, Jen DeLuca, Jamie Gardner, Maria Griffin, Judith Katz, Katie Kelley, Priscilla Lukes, Bev Randazzo, and Grace Wadsworth.

The minutes from the March 5, 2012 meeting were read and accepted as amended.

New Membership process: before voting a new member to the Board, they will be invited to say a few words about their background, their experience, and why they would like to be a member of the Board. Jamie expressed gratitude to the COA members and for all they do to help. When inviting new members, he hopes for a positive fit. He also encouraged the members to express their opinions, but with respect. Judi Blanchard, a potential new member of the Board, gave a brief biographical summary. She was unanimously voted to join the Board.

New England Bonsai Trip on May 16. Jamie and Jen visited the place and picked out the bonsai that will be planted on that day. The class will focus on how to care for and trim the plants while learning the art of bonsai.

Brown Bag concert at Mechanic Hall on April 11. It will be a silent film, one of the ten best movies in the world. The request was made for a COA member to go on the trip, which lunch being paid. Priscilla volunteered. There is not much money available for flexibility with staff. Consequently, there is an issue with staff always going on these trips because it takes away from other responsibilities at the Center.

Volunteer for the Out to Eat trip to 5 Guys. Jamie received a difficult phone call, complaining about the choice of restaurant as promoting obesity. Since Jamie is not responsible for the entire senior population, the choice will stand since all products used are from the USA and the food is fresh. Judi volunteered to go on the trip.

Men's club supper volunteer: Betty

The computer classes, run by students from the school, have been canceled since only one person was participating. Maybe Jen will teach classes in the future. The computers are being used more than in the past.

AA. The issue of not having staff present at the weekly meeting is being addressed by Jamie. It was suggested that he call the 3 churches in Upton and see if any one of them would be willing to host the meeting, since there is usually someone present at the churches on Saturday. Jamie is very supportive of the AA program and didn't expect COA members to cover the meetings. Since the budget is level funded, the cost of running the heat and air conditioning for the entire weekend is an issue. The AA group pays \$40. per month for use of the facility.

Out to Eat ideas: May – Marathon Place in Hopkinton

June – Danielle's in Grafton

July – Jube's in Whitinsville

July-South St. Diner in Westborough

Summer schedule for COA meetings. There will be no meetings in June or July. There will be a meeting in August.

COA newsletter will continue in the summer. Jen is doing a great job putting it together and printing it from funds from the dormant Friends.

There is no Social Services update since Holly was absent.

Budget update: no deficit. Jamie encouraged all to attend the Town Meeting on May 11. Since the budget is level funded, there will be no salary increases for the staff, not even a cost of living increase. Since the staff is non union, no raises are expected. The challenge for the Town is to keep good employees with no financial incentives.

Open House in October. Jamie will form sub committees to work on the day. If anyone can help, please speak to Jamie.

Center Updates. The Center will be closed on May 1,2,3. and 4 for the installation of the new carpet. Inmates from the Worcester County jail, along with a guard, will come on May 1 and 4 to remove and then replace the furniture. The carpet will be installed on May 2 and 3. The columns will all be painted different colors ,and the kitchen will be painted. Hopefully, staff offices will also be painted.

Jamie is considering making the meeting area at the rear of the room into a separate room, with extended, permanent walls with money from the Formula Grant. Since there is no new center in the immediate future, this would provide a private meeting room. Permission is needed from Milhaus owners to do this project.

The round tables were taken by Grace's son who is bringing them to auction. Any proceeds will be given to the Center.

Jamie is changing the policy of charging for coffee, since he feels it is welcoming to be able to offer a cup of coffee. Soda will be available for a suggested donation.

.The meeting was adjourned at 9:58A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Kelley
Secretary.