

Town of Upton
Council on Aging
Upton Center, August 6, 2012

The Upton Council on Aging's summer meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. Those in attendance were Judi Blanchard, Betty Consigli, Jamie Gardner, Maria Griffin, Judith Katz, Grace Wadsworth and Holly Whalen.

The minutes from the May 7, 2012 meeting were read, amended and accepted.

AA Group: Jamie reported that the AA group is now meeting some place in Grafton and that the Center will no longer be rented out to any group.

Town Meeting Update: The level funded budget for the Center was passed at Town Meeting. Further, the town now provides employees with short term disability. There is also a flexible spending account to offset health insurance costs.

Repairs: Repairs have been made to the carpet and new flooring has been installed in the entryway. The carpet had been damaged by some walkers. Everyone's walker either needs to have wheels or slides which can be purchased at CVS, Walgreens or Wal-Mart for about \$4.00. A letter was distributed to individuals with walkers advising them they need the aforementioned attachments. Meals on Wheels volunteers using walkers will also be informed of this necessity. In addition, a reminder may be placed in the newsletter.

COA Membership: We were scheduled to plan the September Open House, but because the full membership is not present, this event will be canceled. In addition, voting for the board cannot take place.

Right now our membership is the lowest it has been in a long time. If our numbers fall below six, we will lose the Formula Grant as well as State Funding. At the moment, we have eight members; however, we would like at least two more individuals to bring us to ten.

The members at today's meeting are asked to think of individuals who would be positive additions and who Jamie could call.

This was the second year that the COA skipped the June and July meetings with the promise that all members would be present at the August meeting. And this is the second year that everyone is not in attendance. Thus next summer, we will meet throughout the summer months.

Friends of Seniors: Jamie met with the Friends group who have decided to remain dormant for the foreseeable future. The establishment of a new group of people to fundraise will not be pursued as it would be illegal for the Center to push for this. Right now, there is approximately six months worth of Friends' monies which the Center can

use to pay for the water machine, coffee and the monthly newsletter. In addition, Bingo will be discontinued if Joyce, a Friends' member, is no longer willing to run the game.

Formula Grant Monies: We received an increased sum which totals \$9,000 due to a correction of the numbers of seniors as reported in the census. Some of these monies will be used to pay for ink and postage to print and mail the monthly newsletter when the Friends' monies are exhausted. Also, the Welcome packets which are distributed to new seniors will be paid for by the Formula Grant.

The use of the Formula Grant money is restrictive in how it is expended: It is used for the bettering of the lives of Upton's elders. Upon application, the use of the money is set forth and cannot be changed. Further, if all the money is not expended, then the funds for the following year's grant will be reduced. The budget for the Center, however, will not be reduced if some the Formula Grant money is returned.

Update on Bus Usage: Bus trips have been reduced because Steve has been out and Jamie has had to split his time between his responsibilities running the Center and driving the bus. Thus interest in the bus has plummeted. Beginning in September, we hope to have two bus trips a month-- one for breakfast and one for lunch, to try and get the numbers up.

Renovations of the Center: Hopefully, next year, the Center will find a way to pay for the construction of a separate room with 3/4 walls, where we are meeting now. This would offer more privacy and the possibility of having three programs running at once. It is estimated to cost approximately \$10,000 and if we cannot do it with the Formula Grant money then we will try to do it with the budget money.

The next meeting of the COA will take place on September 10.

The meeting concluded at 9:55 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Katz
Acting Secretary