

**COUNCIL ON
AGING
MEETING
MINUTES**

November 3, 2014 9:02am

Upton Senior Center – 2 Farm Street, Upton, MA 01568

In Attendance: Chair Betty Consigli, Vice Chair; Grace Wadsworth, Secretary Myra Bigelow, Members, Judi Blanchard, Richard Provost, Annette Castonguay, Maria Griffin, Social Services Jessica D’Amato, Department Specialist Karen Varney, and COA Director Janice Nowicki.

1 The monthly meeting of the Council on Aging was called to order Monday, November 3, 2014 at
2 9:02.

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4 Grace Wadsworth motioned to approve the October 6, 2014 meeting minutes with minor
5 corrections. Motioned was seconded, all approved.

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7 ***DIRECTOR’S REPORT:*** (full report available for review)

8 Jan gave an overview of the Center’s programs and events that were attended last month. She noted
9 that the State will not be supplying the annual flu shots next year. Betty complimented Jan on way
10 the flu shots were administered. Jan thanked Judi, Betty, Jess and Karen for their assistance.

11 Our Senior Work off volunteer Mary Ann Carpenter will be working on special projects throughout
12 the month of December.

13 We welcome volunteer van driver Jim Earl to the Center. Thank you for volunteering your services
14 Jim!

15 This month the Personnel Board and Town Manager Blythe Robinson will be reviewing
16 applications for the 19 per hour part time driver position and hope to have this individual on board
17 by the end of December. Jan gave an overview of the driver training process that this individual
18 must attend before he/she is allowed to transport seniors. Jan also mentioned that she will be
19 revamping the Center’s driver rules and regulations due to liability issues. Transportation will be
20 available to anyone who wishes to attend the Center’s December 5th Christmas party.

21 Jan spoke of new programs she will be introducing in the New Year.

22 In regards to the upcoming Veterans breakfast, it was suggested that we offer some gluten free
23 pastries. Betty will follow up.

24 The Upton Center has adopted a Military Service Project adopting the 182nd Medical Company
25 from Lexington currently stationed in Afghanistan. Cards and care packages will be mailed out
26 and the shipping costs will be paid by Jan. Anyone wishing to donate non-perishable items can
27 drop them off at the Center.

28 The Annual Christmas party will be held on December 5th.

29

30 ***SOCIAL SERVICES:*** (full report available for review)

31 Jessica noted that the two SHINE Representatives have been great helping Senior’s with their
32 Medicare insurance.

33 In her report Jessica said that she has been going through the files and contacting residents to
34 inquire if they need any type of assistance this year, i.e., fuel assistance, holiday food baskets etc.

35 We are fortunate to receive bread and pastries from Price Chopper every Wednesday. A table is set
36 up in the great room where the breads and pastries are placed for anyone to take for free. The
37 Center also delivers a portion to the Coach Road resident.

38 There were a number of Upton residents that have received assistance and was happy to report that
39 the Board of Selectmen have approved \$7,000 to be placed in the fuel assistant program.

40
41 Motion was made to accept both reports, seconded all approved.

42
43 **OLD BUSINESS:**

44 The COA Board training is scheduled for November 6th at 8:30am in Northbridge. Annette, Betty,
45 Judi, Grace, Dick and Jessica will be attending.

46
47 **NEW BUSINESS:**

48 The Board of Selectmen are looking into the possibility of a new Senior Center and library through
49 grant funding. More information will be forthcoming.

50 A report of fifteen Council on Aging Centers were compiled noting hours of operation, staffing
51 and transportation. This report will available for review at the December meeting.

52 For Millhaus and Coach Road residents, there will be no transportation fee for anyone needing a
53 ride to the downtown area to the post office, coffee bean etc. A \$1.00 fee will be charged for a trip
54 to the library or town hall area.

55 Recently the card players have been staying past the three-o'clock time when the Center closes.
56 This will be addressed at the December meeting.

57 As a resident of Coach Road, Dick Provost has volunteered to deliver the monthly newsletters to
58 all the residents. Thank you Dick!

59 The Salvation Army kettle fund will be set up at the Church fair on Saturday December 6th.
60 United Parish will host a turkey dinner on Saturday, November 29th.

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62 The next meeting of the COA will be held December 1st at 9:00am.

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64 Motion to adjourn by Dick, seconded by Maria.

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66
67 Respectfully submitted,

68 *Myra Bigelow* *Karen Varney*
69 Secretary Department Specialist