

WAREHAM COUNCIL ON AGING & SENIOR
SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING
AUGUST 4, 2010

Rick Boucher called the monthly board meeting to order on August 4 at 6:05 p.m. at the Multi-Service Center Building in the Muffin Room, room 208.

Attendance: Rick Boucher, Jim Eubanks, Martha Strachan, Sandra Fleet, Alan Slavin, Liz Mc Donald, Marcia Griswold, Brenda Ekstrom *Ekstrom*
Guests: Sgt. John Walcek (Wareham Police), John Morrissey, David Smith, and Gerry Hannon.

Minutes of June 2nd, 2010 (amended), added an addendum of the Executive Board meeting that followed the Board meeting. Motion to approve made by Jim Eubanks and seconded by Martha Strachan and approved by those who were in attendance at the June 2nd meeting. (hard copy handed out) Minutes of July 7th, 2010 (hard copy) was handed out to be approved. Add Gerry Hannon and John Morrissey to the guest list. Motion to approve the July 7th minutes with the addition to the names who were guests was made by Jim Eubanks and seconded by Alan Slavin.

Director's Report: Marcia Griswold handed out an outline of her report and gave an update. She began her report with Social Services.

264 individuals received resource information and assistance such as helping completing the Massachusetts Health Form, helping pay their rent for a month, and/or housing information. There will be a number of seniors that will be homeless. Wareham Housing Authority does not have emergency space. Rent is not affordable. Recently some seniors have to pay a betterment bill and we've helped individual get legal aid. We need to deal with the affordable housing situation. There is a great need for food stamps due to a loss of a job.

38 individuals received out of area transportation.

One of the new programs that will be offered in September by Scott is "Coping With the Loss of a Job. This accommodates ages 55 and up. These are Pre-registered programs in southshore area. We just had a "Coping With Grief" Program and will continue it in September. Another new course is self defense for women. It will be offered on Friday nights, more details will be forthcoming.

Rick Boucher asked Marcia if she had heard from "Care giver home"? Care Giver Homes is great for emergency situations for homeless. Marcia said she would look into it.. Sandra Fleet asked Marcia about Damien's Pantry donating to the COA? Marcia said the COA has a whole set of resources.

Director's Report (continued) (handout available)

Martha Strachan asked if there was an effort to have a food drive in which cans are left out either via their mailman for collection? Marcia said there will be a Food drive this coming September. The Boys and Girls Club with the help of Barbara Sullivan have been very helpful with past food drives. Produce is acquired through "Southshore Action". The Slavins have contributed to the produce table as well as The company "Panera Bread" leaves giant bags of bread for the seniors. The seniors love the bread.

Alan suggested we get help from the Town Administrator with food drives and have an acceptable location for drop offs. Selectmen have helped in the past (Marcia). COA needs to have an advertising campaign and see which media does a good job (Rick).

Old Business: Committee Reports (Rick Boucher)

Equipment Committee: The committee was asked to procure three computers for the Office and six for the training room. Sandy Fleet has acquired five 3 year old computers that are not under warranty (recycled) donated from the Mayflower Bank. The computers have no monitors. The computers will be delivered the last week of August, August 24,25th.. Need to set up licenses.

Rick said seniors should have access to computers that have internet access. Marcia is going to get a volunteer intern for the computer training and write a grant to help set up the computers. Rick said we can request for monitors. Alan suggested contacting Best Buy (they update their monitors).

Transportation – Rick was reading the Observer and an article about the COA in Marion and Mattapoisett being awarded a vehicle from the Mass. DOT and Coastline Elderly Services, Inc. . This is why it is important that Wareham COA has representatives such as Marcia Griswold and Rick Boucher regionally so Wareham possibly will acquire a vehicle for the Wareham COA in the near future. (article attached)
Southeastern Transportation Alliance (email from Alan Slavin) has free stuff.

Alan Slavin is on a steering committee and will be attending a regional meeting on Aug. 17th and another one the end of September. Marcia had attended this meeting last April. There is approximately ten million dollars available for transportation and Southeast Comprehensive is looking for partners. Alan said they are looking for sustainable Transportation. Funding for transportation to New Bedford for hospital transportation. A new cancer center is at St. Ann's in New Bedford.

COA Handbook - Rick had received Larry Gaines's copy. Rick will make copies. Dave Smith will be giving his copy to Martha Strachan.

Old Business (continued)

Committee Reports (continued)

Survey 2004 – Implement plans for a new senior center. Senior Center funding will be through a federal grant in conjunction with other funds.

Westfield subcommittee met recently and it was extremely positive. Rick Boucher represented the Wareham COA. The next meeting will be August 16th. This meeting is open to the public. Marcia Griswold and Martha Strachan attended the July meeting. Jane Donahue was elected chairperson of the Westfield subcommittee.

Service Committee – Rick asked Liz Mc Donald if she had an opportunity to work with Sgt. John Walcek on the “Are You Okay” program with the volunteers from the police Department. Liz said she had receive a copy of the 2 page handout and the flyer, it’s two years old. John responded there was a training for the Wareham Police on August 23,24th to help elderly with Altheimers. Liz mentioned about New Orleans Police had a program on I.D. that has to be updated every six months. The Wareham training program would include GPS I.D. bracelets for elderly.

Martha Strachan (as a member of the COA Service committee) extended an invitation to Sgt. John Walcek from the editor of the Beacon, Liz Pezzoli to be interviewed for the next issue in September giving an update on being a liason for the seniors and his office hours which will be Thursdays at his assigned office at the Multi-Service Building.

Open Meeting Law – Rick shared a letter from the T.A. Mark Andrews to those who were unable to attend the July 22nd Open Meeting seminar. (A. DVD is available at library)

Potential new members for the C.O.A.. Gerry Hannon shared his reason for applying for being on the COA board. He has helped in the past on meals on wheels. Rick said there are two openings. Rick said we were the only committee with eleven board members. He would like to see it reduced to nine members. Rick asked for a motion for a warrant from the COA to change our quota of board members from eleven to nine to be compiled by Marcia Griswold and Rick Boucher. Motion made by Martha Strachan and seconded by Alan Slavin.

Associate Memberships – Discussion followed. Amendment to above motion to include Two associate members was accepted by person who made motion (Martha Strachan) and by person who seconded motion (Alan Slavin). Associate members would not have voting privileges. (motion passed as amended) The state law states that if there are more than five board members, you are allowed two associate members. The conservation committee has associate members.

Old Business (continued)

New COA members. Motion by Rick Boucher and seconded by Martha Strachan to recommend Gerry Hannon to the Board of Selectmen. Motion passed.

Jim Eubanks stated that in the past potential members to the COA Board had to attend a meeting and be interviewed.

Cara Pillsbury had applied for membership to the COA Board of Directors but was not in attendance. It was recommended that she be invited to our September 1st Board Meeting.

New Business:

Healthy Lifestyle Fair on September 18th from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Multi-Service Building at 48 Marion Road, Wareham. Marcia gave an update and made a vendor flyer available. Volunteers are needed. There will be the American Red Cross, Abbott Labs, AT&T, Medtronic (Tobbey Hospital) insulin pumps and Southcoast with a diagnostic group and a nutritionist available. There will be A speaker on Arthritis.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Jim Eubanks and seconded by Alan Slavin at 7³⁰ p.m. was ~~past~~. Next meeting will be Wednesday, Sept. 1st at 6:00 p.m.

passed

Respectfully submitted by,



Martha V. Strachan

08/20/10