

WAREHAM COUNCIL ON AGING & SENIOR SOCIAL SERVICES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2010

Rick Boucher called the monthly board meeting to order on October 6th at 6:25 p.m. at the Multi-Service Center Building in the Muffin Room, 208.

Attendance: Rick Boucher, Martha Strachan, Tgerry Hannon, Cara Pillsbury, Sandra Fleet, Liz McDonald, and Barry Cattabriga. Guests: David Smith, John Morrissey

Minutes of September 1, 2010 approved with the following corrections: On Page 2 Under John Walcek report, next to last sentence "Liz McDonald Participated in this test (ruin) run.". Motion made by Barry Cattabriga and seconded by Sandra Fleet.

Director's report read by Rick Boucher. (handout given) (see attached report)

Committee Reports:

Building: Rick gave report. The COA is an advocate for seniors in the community. Westfield offers senior affordable housing for seniors from age 55 and up. There are three tiers, ^{One is} that are under \$500 per month for an apartment. The Wareham Housing has a net income of \$9,000. Rick asked for support at the town meetings beginning on October 25th for the Westfield project.

Equipment: Rick gave update. Barry Cattabriga offered to get a monitor for one of the donated computers from Mayflower Bank.

Transportation: Rick gave report. Alan Slavin is chair of this committee. Rick suggested we find a vehicle we would own. We need to establish a budget and have it approved by the town of Wareham. Coastline and Mass. DOT funded new vans for Mattapoisett and Marion (brand new) for \$10,000. ^{at cost to the towns} Gerry Hannon has been added to the transportation committee.

Service: John Walcek is available at the COA building on the second and fourth Thursday monthly. Project Lifesaver is from Virginia. Seniors are given wristbands or Leather straps. A letter is going to go out through teachers to the home. It costs \$100 to get you registered. ^{Program cost is} ~~To change battery~~ \$25 per month. The wristbands or Leather straps can go on backpacks, lockers, pocketbooks and belt loops. It's best to get the heavier gadge., especially if the person is fidgetity and doesn't like sleeves or turtlenecks. John and Liz are going to draft a letter to businesses for donations to support this program. Donations can be a tax writeoff. Cassandra (Police chief's secretary) is setting this up.. Cassandra will set up this donation program with the town of Wareham. "Are You Okay" program is being set up at the police station by John Walcek.

Committee Reports (continued)

Service (continued) Lockboxes topic was suggested by Barry Cattabriga. He reminded Rick of the twelve page report he had done on going into seniors' homes with a checklist. copy of checklist given to Rick Boucher. Like the police department, the fire department should not be going into a senior's home and saying "this is not habitable" and calling the Board of Health said Rick Boucher. Working smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors are important. Rick suggested advertising to the seniors through the newsletter, the Beacon, that this service is available through the fire department. He suggested talking to the Kiddie Corporations about getting free smoke detectors and free carbon monoxide detectors. Rick suggested this be put on the agenda for next month. Cara Pillsbury has been added to the Service Committee.

Old Business: Associate Membership

Rick Boucher explained we have a bylaw change on the warrant at the upcoming town Meeting. Associate Membership is highly recommended by the Office of Elder Affairs. An Associate Member participates in the board meeting, has all the necessary information but does not vote on anything. We need people who are aware of the issues and trained on the procedures and have a desire to be on the board and ready to step if someone's term expires and/or a vacancy occurs. We are the largest town committee. No other committee has more than seven members. We are petitioning in our warrant for nine permanent members and two associate members.

Barry asked about the "Friends group" of the Elderly. Rick explained this group is a non-town entity (nonprofit) organization. Their treasury is around \$6,000 which may sound like a lot but as soon as you give it away, it's gone. Their only funding is whatever money they can raise.

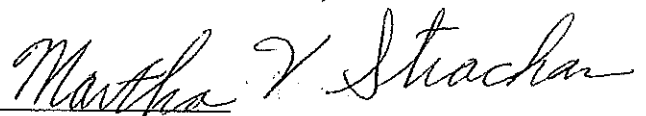
New Business: Rick gave an overview of the Westfield Project and asked for support at the upcoming town meeting on October 25th. Rick is our representative on the Westfield Review committee. Rick actually went out to the property to see the recreation and open space areas. This project will not raise the tax rate at all, it is federally funded. The developer is responsible for all funding before any CPC funds are put in. If the developer fails, it is taken over and the town is not responsible. There are 200 units.

Liz McDonald mentioned a problem occurred on a GATRA bus with an eighty-seven year old elderly lady. Liz asked is the bus drivers are contracted to help elderly on and off the bus or just curb side service? It was mentioned that they might be a liability for the bus driver if he/she helps elderly on or off bus. Only the handicapped vehicles have a bus driver who is trained to operate getting handicapped on and off. Rick said he was not sure of the answer. This lady hurt herself on the first step. She is only 4 feet 10 inches tall and that step is high off the ground. The bus driver yelled at the lady. The lady at the business place heard the bus driver yelling at her friend. It was suggested she attend the monthly meeting GATRA runs for Consumer Complaints.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m. (Gerry Hannon/Martha Strachan)

Next Meeting – Wednesday, Dec. 1, 2010 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Martha Strachan



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