

WAREHAM COUNCIL OF AGING & MULTI-SERVICES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
DECEMBER 1, 2010

Rick Boucher called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m..

The October 5 minutes were approved with the following corrections.

First page a typo with Liz's first name. Under the title Committees,

Westfield has one tier that is under \$500. The maximum net salary

would be \$9,000 to be eligible for affordable housing. Under

Transportation- Coastline provided new vans at a cost of \$10,000

to the town. Under Services: the program costs \$25 per month which

includes more than just changing the batteries.

Motion to approve October 5th minutes with corrections made by Barry and seconded by Gerry. Motion passed.

Director's Report: Marcia Griswold

A handout was given that outlined November monthly report. Marcia elaborated on the statistics given on report. The number of meals delivered for Wareham is just under Plymouth which is larger by square miles in area. Wareham ranks third among Old Colony meals delivered. It's good for those who are homebound. We are always looking for more drivers.

We will be offering a lunch at a cost of \$1.00 and absorb the balance cost of \$1.50. This reduced lunch will benefit those who don't come on a regular basis to have a well-balanced meal. This possibly will increase the number coming for lunch. This will benefit the senior population in our community. Our senior population is just under the national average of 9.2 % living under the federal guidelines of poverty. Our percentage is 9.1%.

SHINE gave a workshop. It is a nonprofit organization. Councilors are given an eight week training. We had 30 participants last month. Some companies will not fund drugs for cancer. The Walmart's plan has its limitations. If the person is a diabetic, Walmart has listed this as tier 3 and is the most expensive. It should be needs based, a diabetic may have different amounts of insulin. SHINE gets this information out to seniors over a cup of coffee. In February another SHINE conference is planned.

Seniors are not renewing their AARP plans due to high costs. We have increased our Outreach Program. On December 8th, we will be at Aquwam and Redwood, It has been announced on television and we have had flyers up in senior housing. We will also be at a new location in Onset and cosponsored by the Onset Bay Association on December 15th and we plan to be there monthly. We will be at Cromesee Woods on a monthly basis starting in January. Our intent is to be on the road to letting seniors

Director's Report (continued)

know the benefits that are available to them. We have four locations. We are considering West Wareham as a location. On December 20th, we need volunteers to bake cookies that will be served the next day at our Open House.

We are planning a trip on December 13th to Island Terrace, a nursing facility in Lakeville. They have a festival of trees. We hope to have two buses. We are only charging \$2.50 for the bus trip.

Rick commented that Wareham's needs are as great as Brockton. There are lack of services. Discussion followed the report. Barry asked about the COA's Publicity of events. Marcia uses the cable TV to promote the outreach Programs.

Marcia announced there is a need to add to the food pantry, cans of tuna fish with pop open tops. Also Marcaroni & Cheese would be welcomed. Now that the unemployment benefits were not extended there is a greater need. Donations of coats would be appreciated as well.

John Walcek mentioned about a knitting group that is from the Greyhill Trailor Park that have donated 150 hats for seniors that are all different sizes. Also, there are blankets & comforters available for babies. These hats are also being donated to the homeless as well.

Rick asked Brenda Eckstrom about the Hug Blankets program she coordinated. She said a few are available. Seniors are lowering their use of fuel due to costs.

Guest(s) – Rick introduced Lynn Barrows who has applied for membership to the COA board. At the moment the board is full, however there are Associate Memberships available.

Old Business: Committee Reports

Rick Boucher started off with the Building Committee. He thanked everyone for getting out the vote for Westfield. At the town meeting affordable housing with Westfield was passed. The vote to lease town owed land was passed. Rick thanked Cara Pillsbury for her indirect help that brought attention to the seniors to come to town meeting and cast their vote for Westfield.

Equipment Committee: Barry has donated a monitor for one of the computers from Mayflower Bank.

Transportation: Alan Slavin reported that Capital Planning will not be presented at the spring town meeting.

Old Business:(continued)

Transportation Committee (continued) Marcia suggested the committee reconsider their goal of purchasing a van and instead work with GATRA and have an extra bus. Three buses hold eighteen passengers with two handicapped passengers in back. The GATRA drivers are well qualified and are constantly trained. A scheduler helped the COA with a software program to make schedules. Last spring, the COA saved \$8,000 last spring. With the price of gas, more individuals are using the GATRA buses. Priority is given to first the disabled, next for medical, and last for social to use the buses. The cost to the town of Wareham might be too expensive for the COA to have their own van.

Rick Boucher asked Liz McDonald if she had followed up on the recommendation that she attend the monthly GATRA meeting to discuss the incident she brought to the Board's attention in October. She had not. Marcia stated the incident had been addressed. Clarification was given that a liability for the driver does exist to help handicapped. A companion can accompany an elderly handicapped person free of charge to ride the GATRA bus.

Service Committee: John Walcek discussed the Project Life program and Wareham has adopted a form for the File for Life. It has a bright color which indicates medical problems in case the person can not talk or speak. He hopes to have the program begin the first of the year. Tobbey Hospital has been contacted. Rick Boucher mentioned the "File for Life" is a national program. Why re-invent the wheel? The alarm system he works with has the File for Life with the pouch attached. John Walcek explained Wareham's program would be centralized at the police station. The Chief of Police, Stanley has agreed to supply paper for program in which an I.D. picture is taken. Marcia suggested that John talk to Carol Desmond who would be a good resource. John needs to contact the COA when he is ready to market this program.

New Business: Next month Barry will be on the agenda to discuss his Safety Check List.
Election of Officers on next month's agenda.

Next month's meeting will be Wednesday, January 5th at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made by Barry and seconded by Gerry. Motion passed.

Attendance: Rick Boucher, Martha Strachan, Jim Eubanks, Alan Slavin, Marcia Griswald, Barry Cattabriga, Gerry Hanlon, Liz McDonald, Cara Pillsbury, Brenda Eckstrom, Sandra Fleet and Paul Ciccotelli.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha V. Strachan

Martha V. Strachan, secretary

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