

WAREHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Board of Directors Meeting

February 2, 2011

Martha Strachan called the meeting to order at 6:35p.m. Martha thanked the Board members for attending despite the weather and a quorum was noted.

Attendance; Barry Cattabriga, Cara Pillsbury, Gerry Hannon, Alan Slavin, Jim Eubanks, Martha Strachan, John Walcek (liaison to Service Committee) and Lynne Burroughs (guest)

No Guest Speaker

January 5, 2011 Minutes were approved with no corrections.

Approved by Barry Cattabriga and seconded by Gerry Hannon.

Motion passed.

Director's report Marcia Griswald was ill and not in attendance

Martha announced that the Plymouth County District Attorney will be speaking on Feb.14 at 10:30am at the COA on the topic of ~~Fraud~~^{scam} that seniors need to be aware of esp. in regard to identity theft, credit cards and banking. A flyer posted in the elevator with details. The media has been invited to cover also. If you plan to attend luncheon afterwards, please sign up

Committee Reports

Martha circulated committee lists and asked the board to review committee chairs and asked that they remain in place.

Martha also noted that committee members should familiarize themselves with the Open Meeting Law. Some subcommittees are under the misnomer that they can just meet without posting the meeting, agenda and a location accessible to the public. A

workshop will be planned for July to review the OML by the Town Administrator, Mark Andrews.

Service Committee: Martha asked Jim Eubanks to continue as Chair and he accepted. Martha shared a recommendation made by Marcia that Carol Desmond be utilized as a resource to his committee.

Transportation Committee: Alan Slavin was asked and accepted Chair of the committee. Alan gave an update that the COA van question is still under study. Details in last month's minutes.

Equipment Committee: Newest Acquisition is a donation of a wii from the Friends of the Elderly.

Gerry Hannon announced that 3 monitors(and possibly a printer) were being delivered to the COA on the following day. Martha thanked him for his efforts. Computer classes will be offered. Previous donation of other computer items have been made.

Old Business: Rick Boucher was unable to attend the monthly meeting at Old Colony. \$200 of raffle tickets were delivered prior to the meeting by Rick. Next month it was requested that Rick present an update as a representative to Old Colony appointed by the Selectmen.

As noted, Open Meeting Law Workshop scheduled to be held in July for new members and any others that would like to attend. Next month we will hold a review of the OML during our monthly meeting and Q and A will be entertained.

Jim Eubanks expressed concern about the existing OML and thought it might be too cumbersome. He announced he would like to hold a subcommittee meeting for his service committee, he was referred to Marcia .

New Business: At the Selectmen's Meeting, Lynne Burroughs

made application for COA Membership Martha submitted a letter of recommendation.

The Attorney General had not approved the Spring Wareham Town Meeting. Therefore, the category , Associate member has not been approved. There are 9 full members with Rick Boucher stepping down. We are the only committee that has 11 members. Martha was on the Associate membership committee of which the purpose is to allow someone new to become familiar with the group and observe the workings of the committees before committing to full membership. _____ would be in place. If the AG approval came back and we had 10 members, the tenth member would remain on the Board and not be bumped. Last month's election, the position of secretary remains open. An Associate member could be clerk and tape meetings. However, the minutes would have to be assigned to a full member to transcribe.

For the Good of the Committee:

Lynne signed up her daughter for an Art class. "It is so exciting to see the increase of the numbers of classes being offered".

John Walcek is available for Seniors. Some seniors are afraid of their neighbors. File for Life is tabled awaiting approval from Town Administrator. Project Lifesaving also on hold. Many folks can't afford the Project Lifesaving program currently. Paperwork has been submitted. There are people that would like to donate to this program. Police have started checking batteries for the seniors who have the wristbands.

John also mentioned how supportive Marcia has been of affordable housing for seniors. "She really puts her whole heart and soul into it"

Adjournment at 7:30pm Next meeting on **March 2 at 6:30 pm**

Martha V. Strachan, chairperson, clerk
Respectfully submitted by

Transcribed by Martha Strachan

Typed by Sandra Fleet



TOWN OF WAREHAM

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Council on Aging Board of Directors
FROM: Susan P. Green, Acting Director
DATE: March 2, 2011
RE: **FEBRUARY 2011 REPORT**

I am happy to present my first report on activities at the Wareham Council on Aging during the month of February 2011.

MEALS: A total of 457 meals were served on-site and 1,453 meals were delivered.

RIDERSHIP: Dial-a-Ride had 860 riders for the month. February included one snow day (2/2/11) and one holiday (2/21/11).

ACTIVITIES: A visit from the District Attorney's office resulted in an audience of 30 on February 14, 2011. Being Valentine's Day, there was an ice cream social that day as well to celebrate the holiday. Overall, this attracted 60 participants.

A Luau was held February 23, 2011 and the monthly Coffee Hour as well. A total of 66 people signed up for the Oil Art Class for February (6 week course). Eight signed up for the Watercolor class, one for the Quilting, 20 line dancers, 4 Yoga participants, 3 Acrylics, 4 Judo, and 8 Taichi. 197 participated in Bingo during February.

There was a pool tournament February 22 and 23. The trophy winners were: Barbara Russell for the Women's Champ and Kevin Cunningham for the Men's.

IN-SERVICE/STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

SOCIAL SERVICES:

The office is very busy with a pretty steady flow of visitors seeking assistance of one form or another. Fortunately, staff is very able to handle these visitors and provide assistance on available resources.

Fuel Assistance: Twenty-six new applications were received for fuel assistance, which included 6 emergencies and 21 Outreach referrals. January had 29 new applications with 2 emergencies and 4 Outreach referrals. The total applications to date are 207.

Intakes and Assistance: Between the reception desk and Outreach Office, the office provided assistance in one form or another to 372 visitors. Some of the assistance provided included food, furnace repair, cash, rental, homeless shelter, food stamps, prescriptions, Safelink, elder services, hand grips for bathroom, and railing replacement.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

It is expected that the same classes will continue and we will work to provide others to increase participation by finding something of interest to more residents.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

Starting in March we'll be offering a Creative Writing Course on Thursdays at 2PM. This is a 6-week course and pre-registration is required.

On March 29, 2011 we'll have "Chocolate and Coffee—The Good, Bad and Ugly." This program is offered by Hospice Services of Massachusetts and will be held in Room 119 at 10AM.

We are also planning to increase participation in the Mug 'N Muffin café on Thursdays. I met with the Friends March 1, 2011 and discussed their possible financial assistance with the program until we get participation increased so it will again be self-supporting. Suggestions were offered as to how we could increase participation, including encouraging people in the building for other reasons to stop and have a coffee and treat, and baking something themselves so there wouldn't be a cost for supplies. They agreed to discuss it further and see what they could come up with. Will keep you informed.

The Wii donated by the Friends is up and running and available during the day in the Day Care Room, although it is not limited to day care clients.

We are discussing having movies on a daily basis and perhaps having them in the Community Room. If we start them with the lunch participants they may stay to watch the end of the movie or stay for another activity.

I have made copies of the March calendar for you to see what activities are scheduled for the month.