

WAREHAM COA & MULTI-SERVICES

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MARCH 2, 2011

Martha Strachan, chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Attendance: Alan Slavin, Barry Cattabriga, Paul Ciccotelli, Jim Eubanks, Liz McDonald, Sandra Fleet, Martha Strachan, Donna Marie Barros, and Susan P. Green, Acting Director.

Guests: Ellen Begley, Lynne Burroughs, Jim Morrissey and Patricia Ciccotelli.

Excused absences: Gerry Hannon, Cara Pillsbury and John Walcek.

No Guest: Next month possible guest (Mark Andrews, T.A.) discussing the changes in the Open Meeting Law.

Approval of the February Minutes: Minutes were approved with the correction of a typo under the Director's Report: The topic of the Plymouth Cty DA. representative was Fraud (not Freud). Motion made by Barry Cattabriga and seconded by Alan Slavin to approve with the correction. Motion passed with four abstained votes due to not being in attendance at the February meeting. (4-0-4)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Martha introduced Susan P. Green, Acting Director and welcomed her. An handout was given. Susan P. Green, acting Director of the COA met with Mark Andrews. They are thinking of offering activities and/or courses following lunch for the seniors so the people will stay and participate. Mark Andrews is revamping how courses are offered and have everyone on the same page. Anyone who offers a course understands what is expected and what the town gets out of it. Each instructor will receive a letter. Some may have to buy insurance so the town is not responsible. We are working on this. We will get that all figured out. Susan asked the "Friends of the Elderly" to help with the Coffee-drop-in on Thursdays in the Cranberry Cafe (Muffin Room). They are willing to bake. The Muffin Lady needed \$3.00 for her muffins. It was suggested that anyone in the COA building should be encouraged to attend the coffee hour. Susan spoke to Debbie Ramos about inviting the Day-Care to the coffee hour which would increase the attendance (which has been low). It would increase conversations with everyone and perhaps more will attend. Martha responded that she felt it was a "win/win" situation for the "Friends of the Elderly" because they could promote attending their meeting which has had lower numbers. Board members gave input and asked questions. Donna Marie Barros mentioned that in the past the Day Care came up to the Muffin Room the day before and helped set tables and bake for the coffee hour and seemed to enjoy it. Paul Ciccotelli suggested that craftsmen applying for various licenses at the COA be offered a cup of coffee. That would provide a steady stream of new people. The Men's Coffee has arrangements with the Cafeteria and an helper who makes the coffee according to Jim Eubanks.

Alan brought to the Board's attention that there was a conflict with his scheduled Men's Coffee and the lady making the muffins. The Men's Coffee has been renamed the Coffee Hour and changed to Wednesday afternoon. There is a possibility the Cedar office which has been used for meetings, we may lose. Susan expressed the need for meeting spaces. The T.A. may lease Cedar Office. Martha suggested running the idea of movies and/or activities at 11:45 a.m. by Cheryl, Nutritionist first.

Committee Reports:

Transportation: Alan Slavin said no decision on whether the COA wants to have its own van for transportation. That will remain on hold while Marcia Griswold is not here. The COA building is going forward with the Westfield committee and maybe the T.A. would want to work something out in regards to transportation.

Martha mentioned she is attending the Westfield committee meetings and they are open to the public tomorrow March 3rd, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m..

Alan said grants are available in the town of Marion. Southcoast sends patients to hospitals that have a certain specialty. Some patients need to go to Boston. If we had our own van similar to SPED buses that have a schedule and go at a certain time and pick up some income at the same time. Have a revolving fund that would pay for this.

The van would fill gap where GATRA is not able to meet our needs. Paul asked Alan if he was familiar with an organization called FISH. That is all volunteers and exist in Marion and Mattapoisett to give rides to elderly for medical reasons. Martha asked Alan to check into this organization. Donna mentioned the Wareham taxi accommodates the elderly for medical purposes and paid by Medicare. Alan reinforced his previous statement about the advantages of having a van similar to SPED buses that can eliminate the wheel chair access if not needed. Smaller van is not as versatile. Also less costly fuel (diesel) for larger van. Martha mentioned this topic was discussed in the December minutes.

Equipment Committee:

Paul Ciccotelli, chairman mentioned the Masonic Lodge has available crutches, commodes, hospital beds, and medical furniture which are free. Come and get the objects and keep them or bring the back. Paul offered to find out who the contact person would be for Susan Green. Sandra asked if this information could be put in the Beacon newsletter. Susan offered to follow up on that. Martha mentioned that Liz had told her the deadline this month is March 12th for the Beacon.

Service Committee:

Jim Eubanks, chairman gave an update on his project of developing a list of trades people who would offer a discount for elderly. Paul gave some background on recent changed laws for nonprofit organizations. Barry mentioned the crafts people on the list we are making available but it is still the seniors' choice.

Old Business:

Old Colony Appointment:

Rick Boucher and Marcia Griswold are no longer attending the Brockton Old Colony Board monthly meetings on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am. . Martha met with Rick in a transitional meeting and he suggested that she ask the board to endorse her as chairman to replace him. Also, he suggested that someone replace Marcia's position as well. Donna Marie Barros expressed interest in being the representative from the board. There was a discussion that followed regarding whether Donna Marie Barros was still on the board. (Her last official board meeting was January, 2010.) She said she had not sent a letter of resignation to the Board of Selectmen. Martha mentioned she had personally approached Donna five times to get her to attend the COA meetings. Rick Boucher had followed our bylaws regarding this matter but there are bylaws of the BOS to follow as well. Martha will look into the BOS bylaws for future incidents. Alan nominated Donna Marie Barros to be a delegate to Old Colony. *The motion passed 6-1-1 with one abstain vote. Paul Ciccotelli nominated Martha Strachan to be the second delegate to the Old Colony. *The motion passed. (7-0-1) . One vote abstained. *

Open Meeting Law:

The Open Meeting Law changed in October, 2010. Language was changed. A DVD is available in the Wareham Free library and from the Town Clerk. Mark Andrews, T.A. is willing to come speak on this besides offering a workshop this summer in July.

New Business:

Time change for COA board meetings: A straw vote was taken at the last month's board meeting. It was in favor of moving the time to daytime perhaps afternoon (4:30 p.m.) Sandra Fleet made the motion to change out meeting time to 4:30 p.m. Motion was seconded by Jim Eubanks. Discussion followed. Liz McDonald suggested 5:00 p.m. or 5:30 p.m.. Susan Green said 4:30 p.m. would be more convenient for her. Lynne Burroughs, candidate for Associate Member said 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. is when she is dropping her kids off after school. Alan Slavin recommended keeping the same time which is 6:30 p.m. Sandra Fleet and Jim Eubanks withdrew their motion.

Interviews with New Applicant:

Kathleen Moore Minkle had contacted Susan Green to be excused from tonight's meeting due to illness. This will be on next month's agenda.

For the Good of the Committee:

Jim Eubanks talked about someone he had been helping get a job.

Liz McDonald mentioned she was unable to attend the February COA board meeting to make an amendment to the January 5th minutes. She had abstained her vote for approval of Lynne Burroughs to be a member of the COA board. That addition will be made to the January 5th minutes.

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* Insert -- seconded by Barry Catta briga
* seconded by Jim Eubanks

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For The Good of the Committee: (continued)

Barry spoke of his bus trip in support of Elderly going to Boston. There were 500 people in Boston at the state house. Barry requested Susan Green follow up with the T.A. regarding service committee's project with developing list of trades people. She agreed to. Donna Barros announced she had received her certificate from Hud for grant writing.

Adjournment:

Martha thanked everyone for their participation and asked for a motion to adjourn. Alan made the motion seconded by Barry at 7:45 p.m.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Clerk
Martha V. Strachan, ~~Acting Secretary~~
Chair person



TOWN OF WAREHAM

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Council on Aging Board of Directors
FROM: Susan P. Green, Acting Director
DATE: April 6, 2011
RE: **MARCH 2011 REPORT**

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

MEALS: A total of 612 meals were served on-site and 1,930 meals were delivered. For comparison, last month's numbers were 457 and 1,453 respectively.

ACTIVITIES: March activities included a St. Patrick's Party on March 15, thanks to the Friends groups and the monthly birthday celebration on March 16, Chocolate and Coffee—the Good, the Bad and the Ugly—on March 29. Approximately a dozen persons attended and this does not include the Day Care group as they had another activity taking place.

Mug 'n Muffin has been gaining attendees—we collected over \$10 when the morning exercise group joined for fruit pizza, made by Cheryl's group in Nutrition.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

The office seemed to be busier this month than February, most likely due to the weather improving somewhat and people getting out more.

Fuel Assistance: There were forty (40) new applications (26 for February) that were processed through the office. This included 8 emergencies and shutoffs, 1 appeal for denial, and several referrals. There were 77 incoming phone calls as well. This makes the total applications to date 247.

Intakes and Assistance: Between the reception desk and Outreach Office, the office provided assistance in one form or another to at least 322 visitors. This is down 50 from last month, but the figures are only from Carol Desmond and Laura Ullian, and others also provided assistance without documenting same. Some of the assistance provided

included food, housing rehab application assistance, personal care, window replacement, refrigerators, and hearing aids.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS

We are working on preparing an ad for classes. We want to expand the classes to include anything and everything that may be of interest to not only seniors, but the community as a whole. So far, it seems to be concentrated on art or some form of exercise and we're looking for instructors for anything and everything. Will keep you informed.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

The Wii donated by the Friends is still only being used by Day Care on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. It hasn't yet been made available to everyone because we're not sure how we're going to secure it and we don't want it walking away. Suggestions are welcome.

For the month of April, we have the New Bedford Consumer Program coming on the 11th, Health and Fitness as we Age in Room 119 on April 13 (presented by the Tremont Health Care Center), Coping with Grief sessions on Fridays at 10AM, Room 119—for April this is scheduled for the 1st, 15th, and 29, and the Friend's Easter Party will be held at 12:15PM on Tuesday, April 19. We're also going to the Dartmouth Mall on April 20—this is something people have been asking for so we're planning on having trips the third Wednesday of the month.

OTHER

I am working on getting the carpeting replaced in the COA office. I have two prices and am looking into getting a third. Once I have the estimates I'll approach CEDA to see if they will fund the project. If approved, we'll also try to get the office painted at the same time. I also plan to make some changes in the arrangement of desks to eliminate some of the clutter that presently exists and make the office more efficient.

Laura Ullian is no longer in the office as the Wellness Grant from CEDA was discontinued. I have been working with Citizens for Citizens and soon will have someone in the office as a Receptionist to work 8AM-Noon Monday-Friday. They are looking for someone to do the same from Noon-4PM.

I have made copies of the April calendar for you to see the full schedule of activities scheduled for the month.