

Wayland Council On Aging

Minutes

November 3,
2009

7:00PM

WAYLAND SENIOR CENTER

Facilitator	Betsy Soule, Chair
Note Taker	Julie Secord, Co-Director / COA
ATTENDEES	COA Board Members Present: Betsy Soule, Chair; Geoff Smith. Vice Chair; Mary Antes, Denise Yurkofsky, Evelyn Ekmejian, Harriet Onello, Bill Sterling, Betsy Willard; COA Board Members Absent: Bill Zellen Co-Directors: Julie Secord; JoAnn Kunz
VISITORS	None
Public Comment	None

Agenda topics

MINUTES

Betsy Soule.chair

Discussion	Minutes of the October 2009 COA meeting were presented for review.
Conclusions	MOTION: A motion was made by Harriet Onello and seconded by Geoff Smith to accept the minutes of the October 2009 COA meeting.
MOTION RESULT: Motion passed unanimously.	

BAYPATH REPORT

Evelyn Ekmejian

Discussion,	Evelyn presented the new organizational chart for BayPath administration. She also discussed the Governor's budget with its massive cuts to the "Prescription Advantage" program. The cuts to the Home Care program will inevitably necessitate nursing home placement for some clients. For the first time, Wayland currently has two clients on the waiting list for Home Care services.
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PROPERTY TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

Geoff Smith

Discussion	The amended home rule petition article that was passed at Fall Town Meeting, 2008 has still not left the House for Senate approval. Rep. Conroy indicated that although they received the article in December 2008, the Hearing for the bill was not until September 16, 2009. The bill should now be with House Ways and Means Committee. It will still need to go through "Third Reading" before proceeding to the State Senate. The Directors will speak with Senator Brown's office to determine latest progress on the bill. For seniors to benefit from this bill for 2009, it is imperative that the bill be passed by December 31, 2009.
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**FRIENDS OF THE WAYLAND COA,
INC.**

Betsy Willard

Discussion	<p>Betsy Willard provided an overview of the project with Minuteman Regional Technical. Students will be constructing a library wall at the Council On Aging. There have been some delays with the project but the Minuteman teacher coordinating the project is scheduled to bring the completed design plans to COA for approval with the projected material costs. The library wall will include a unit to store the WayCam equipment, a coffee credenza as well as bookshelves. A townwide resident appeal letter is currently being drafted for a winter mailing. Mary Antes updated the Board on the Emergency Kit project. The goal is to provide a "kit" that would be complementary to the more extensive emergency bags presently being offered by Sudbury. Residents seeking a large supply bag with carrying handle and wheels will be able to order through Sudbury. Residents whose priority is to have basics easily available could order this smaller, compact kit through Wayland. The "basics" will include File of Life as well as lists with additional items or issues to be considered. The Friends are still refining the process and contents list. Betsy also announced that plans for a Community Fundraiser this Fall is underway. Fundraising Committee members are Betsy Willard, Sue Pope and Julie Secord.</p>
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DIRECTORS REPORT

JoAnn Kunz / Julie Secord

Discussion	<p>The Directors reported that the Commonwealth's inability to provide the flu vaccine as scheduled created havoc with the Board Of Health and the community expecting to receive their shots. Flu Clinics had been scheduled based on BOH's communication with the State. When the vaccine was not forthcoming, the COA was forced to incur a \$250 expense so printed self adhesive neon labels could be applied over the flu clinic dates on each COA newsletter. News of the vaccine delay came after the publisher had printed the newsletters.</p> <p>The Directors provided an overview of the October events (Fall Luncheon, slide show, Soup's On, etc.) as well as a preview of the November programs (Scams –presented by a retired FBI fraud investigator, Walt Whitman Seminar, Medicare Open Enrollment presentation on "Navigating the Medicare Maze"., etc.)</p> <p>MWRTA changes without notifying the COA have created unnecessary confusion. An email from the MWRTA was received at the COA outlining the new rates and locations. Without any discussion with COA, MWRTA implemented changes to that initial email, imposing a "medical appointments only" if being transported to specific communities (Newton, Milford, etc.). With Newton as a "medical" only, Wayland is left without any direct service to connect with the MBTA Green Line. JoAnn has been in contact with Eva Willens at the MWRTA. Wayland COA Van trips included excursions to Verrill Farms, Honeypot Hill, Market Basket in Ashland. The van is also scheduled to do shuttle trips for events at the Town Building, elections and Town Meeting in November.</p> <p>There was discussion about general emergency procedures in Wayland. The Board requested that the Director's request clarification from the Fire Chief as to procedural guidelines for the "Elder At Risk" list should there be a catastrophe – be it localized or town-wide. Evacuation plans for the congregate housing were also questioned. With winter approaching, the Directors discussed the volunteer "snow shoveling access" program with Wayland High School. Some elder residents, in anticipation of a snowy winter, are already voicing complaints about snow being left in their driveways from the plows. The Directors are contacting snow plow companies to see if any might be willing to be placed on a list for residents wishing a "one time only" end of driveway clean-out</p>
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for a nominal charge.

An update on the final meeting with the Master Plan Advisory Committee was given as well as the IT Project study currently being conducted by the Town to prioritize departmental concerns about phones, computers, software, etc.

**I.L.O.T. (Independent Living
Options Task Force / Mgmt Council Mary Antes**

Discussion

Mary indicated that I.L.O.T. is currently working toward developing a Business Plan. The ILOT Management Council is now meeting twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Friday of every month at 2:00pm.

FY2011 BUDGET REVIEW

JOANN KUNZ/JULIE SECORD

The Directors reviewed the guidelines for the FY2011. Each department has been asked to level fund their budget but also provide the Town Administrator with a prioritized listing of cuts that would represent 4% of the department's entire budget. The prioritized cuts are expected to be sustainable cuts.

The desire to parallel towns that have increased the number of contracted hours for Tax Work-Off participants was raised. The related cause/effect relationship on the COA budget was then discussed.

MOTION: A motion was made by Geoff Smith and seconded by Harriet Onello to increase the Tax Work-Off award amount from \$500 to \$800 for FY2011.

Discussion then related to the guidelines for the FY2011 budget. If the award amount was increased by \$300, fewer applicants would be accepted into the program if the line item was level funded. After lengthy discussion, Harriet Onello called the question.

MOTION DOES NOT CARRY (1 yes, 5 no)
(Voting FOR: Geoff Smith; Voting AGAINST: Mary Antes, Evelyn Ekemjian, Harriet Onello, Bill Sterling, Denise Yurkofsky (Betsy Willard was not present for the vote.)

Discussion

The Directors updated the Board on their growing concern about availability of state money through the Formula Grant. Julie indicated that the Formula Grant money due in September, had still not been received. The Formula Grant money funds the position of the COA Volunteer Coordinator. The EOEA indicated that they were on hold as Gov. Patrick was still in the process of making massive cuts to the budgets. Julie said there has been a growing irregularity in the money coming from the state. The position of Volunteer Coordinator is critical to the COA. With a skeletal budget, the COA relies heavily on a volunteer staff. Approximately 150 volunteers serve the COA in a variety of capacities. If the position of Volunteer Coordinator were eliminated due to lack of state funding, the remaining staff could not absorb the Volunteer Coordinator's duties. The VC recruits, trains, CORIs, schedules and supervises this extensive corp who provide service to FISH, Home Delivered Meals, programs, outreach, etc. The Directors asked the Bpard for consideration to alter line items within the COA budget. The budget would comply with mandated level funding guidelines but allow the position of Volunteer Coordinator, a 15 hour/week position with no benefits) to become a Town position and not remain at the mercy of the state. The Board suggested that a consultation with Michael DiPietro and John Senshychyn regarding the Personnel Board should be the next step if the Board

made and approved a motion for the transfer of money into Personnel for the FY2011 budget.

MOTION: A motion was made by Denise Yurkofsky and seconded by Bill Sterling to level fund the FY2011 COA budget total and authorize a line item transfer of \$15,000 from contractual services to personnel.

MOTION CARRIES: UNANIMOUS

OTHER DISCUSSION

Discussion

With space, parking and projected growth of the senior population all critical issues at the COA, a trip to Canton, CT to tour a Library/Council On Aging Community Center was recommended. The Board supported the idea.

Conclusions

Meeting adjourned at 9:35pm.

The next COA Board Meeting will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2009 at 7pm.