

# Wayland Council On Aging

## MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 1, 2009 7:00PM

WAYLAND SENIOR CENTER

<b>FACILITATOR</b>	Betsy Soule, Chair
<b>NOTE TAKER</b>	Julie Secord, Co-Director / COA
<b>ATTENDEES</b>	COA Board Members Present: Betsy Soule, Chair; Geoff Smith, Vice Chair; Mary Antes, Denise Yurkofsky, Evelyn Ekmejian, Bill Sterling, Betsy Willard; Bill Zellen; COA Board Members Absent: Harriet Onello Co-Directors: Julie Secord; JoAnn Kunz
<b>VISITORS</b>	None
<b>PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	None

### Agenda topics

#### MINUTES

BETSY SOULE.CHAIR

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Minutes of the August 2009 COA meeting were presented for review. Spelling corrections were made to the August minutes. A request was also made to not include the discussion re: waste water treatment with the Property Tax Relief Committee report.
<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	MOTION: A motion was made by Geoff smith and seconded by Mary Antes to accept the minutes of the August 2009 COA meeting as amended.
MOTION RESULT: Motion passed unanimously.	

#### BAYPATH REPORT

EVELYN EKMEJIAN

<b>DISCUSSION,</b>	Evelyn reported that the BayPath board of Directors had not met during August so there was no further update. General discussion followed regarding the Bateman contract and BayPath's ability to institute cost controls on the hemorrhaging nutrition program inherited from SMOC. The Directors reported that a recent email from BayPath's Executive Director Christine Allessandro indicated that the State would be administering the controls on the Wait List for home care services. The clients who are on the waitlists have already been evaluated. Whereas BayPath has a financial surplus, it was questioned if those funds could be targeted for home care services to reduce the wait times.
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#### PROPERTY TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

GEOFF SMITH

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>Geoff reported that Jason Brody has requested to address the Property Tax Relief Committee at their next scheduled meeting. Jason Brody is on the Board Of Assessors but wishes to address the Property Tax Relief Committee as an interested resident. Geoff also reported that the next MCOA Tax Work Off Task Force meeting was scheduled for September 8, 2009.</p> <p>A discussion followed regarding an initiative by several communities to increase the Tax Work Off amount to \$1000. Wayland's current program awards \$500 to participants for 62 hours of service. If the amount were increased, residents would then work approximately 104 hours, necessitating a 1099 at year-end. If the COA budget line item for the Tax Work-Off Program remains level funded, fewer residents would be able to participate. The Directors reported that the high number of Tax Work Off applicants mandated a lottery this year. Geoff distributed a draft of an article if the Property Tax Relief Committee and the COA wished to proceed with increasing the Tax Work Off amount to \$1000. The Directors will request the deadline dates for submission for a Town Meeting article. A Property Tax Relief Committee meeting will be scheduled.</p> <p>Julie updated the Board on a recent conversation with State Representative Tom Conroy re: the amended home rule petition article that was passed at Fall Town Meeting, 2008. Rep. Conroy indicated that although he received the article in December of 2008, the Hearing for that article was scheduled for September 16, 2009. After the 9/16/09 Hearing, it moves to the House Ways and Mean Committee and then on to a "Third Reading". After the Third Reading, the amendment to the Home Rule Petition goes to the State Senate. Representative Conroy was hopeful that all would be completed as early as October and no later than year-end.</p>
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<b>DISCUSSION</b>	Betsy Willard provided an overview of the latest Friends initiatives. The direct mail letter campaign to businesses and Wayland residents has been top priority. A winter doldrums fundraiser is being planned for February. Betsy also updated the Board on the status of the library wall. A perfect shelving unit was located at Costco. Although only two units were in stocks, Costco was checking inventory for the balance of units needed. Minuteman Vocation is very interested in creating furniture for the Sr. Ctr. The possibility of furniture (like a coffee table, coffee credenza, etc.) to complement the library wall will be discussed with Minuteman.
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DIRECTORS REPORT

JOANN KUNZ / JULIE SECORD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<p>An overview of programs/services was presented. New offerings include The Directors discussed the impact of losing the Hearing Room for three weeks for asbestos removal/floor renovation. Whereas the COA uses both the Hearing Room and the Senior Center at the same time, not having access to the Hearing Room necessitates program cancellation. The Directors indicated that off-site locations could sometimes be scheduled, but lack of staffing to physically set up and break down those rooms, inability to supervise the programs and intervene should there be a health or safety issue, further complicates the issue. Julie mentioned that Parmenter had offered the COA use of their space at Traditions where the Adult Day program was previously held. Unfortunately the limited room size cannot accommodate our large exercise programs. Parking is also limited at Traditions. Board members suggested the possibility of using church space, although there might be a rental fee. Betsy Willard offered to speak to the Wayland Trinitarian Church to see if a waiver of their \$200-300 fee might be possible if we are notified that we have lost use of a prime space in the Town Building. The Trinitarian Church would be ideal as participants could continue to come to the Town Building, park as usual, and then be directed to the walkway to the gymnasium at the church.</p> <p>The Fall Flu Clinics will also force cancellation of exercise programs. The Directors said there would be 2 seasonal flu clinics. The H1N1 clinics will be after the seasonal flu clinics. Seniors are not the priority for H1N1.</p> <p>Julie mentioned that over 70 had signed up for the "Masters Of Enterprise" lecture series with Dr. Gary Hylander. This free series was made possible by a grant from the Friends of the Wayland Council On Aging. Betsy Willard suggested that an evaluation form be distributed on the last evening of the lecture series. Requesting participants to complete a form would provide better insight as to what participants are interest in as well as promoting awareness of the Friends organization.</p> <p>The Directors also mentioned that it might be fortuitous to have a brief I.L.O.T. update as an agenda item. Whereas Mary Antes attends the I.L.O.T. meetings and Julie attends whenever possible, Mary will be the liaison to provide the monthly review. I.L.O.T's mission is to provide services not otherwise available through the COA, etc. to allow elders to age in place.</p>
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MASTER PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

BETSY SOULE/MARY ANTES

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	A Master Plan Advisory Committee (MPAC) meeting attended by Betsy Connolly, Steve Freundlich, Mike Lowery, Julie Secord, JoAnn Kunz, Mary Antes and Betsy Soule was held Aug. 12. MPAC established Data Collection Teams to meet with the various boards, committees, etc. to determine if the Town's current Master Plan is on track to achieve targeted goals and objectives. Discussion related to Housing, Public Facilities, Land Use, Economic Development, Transportation and Natural Resources. Bill Sterling had provided a copy of the 2003 Master Plan pages, which made reference to the Council On Aging. It was immediately noticed that the growth of the senior population and the urgent need for the COA to define a larger, centralized location for programs and services had been gravely underestimated. A copy of the COA packet with current statistics, space needs compared to other communities was distributed to MPAC. The current challenges of the COA were discussed at length. Two more meetings will follow with the Data Collection Team to identify elder transportation needs, housing concerns, etc.
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TRANSPORTATION STUDY UPDATE

JOANN KUNZ/JULIE SECORD

<b>DISCUSSION</b>	The Directors provided an update on the senior transportation study. It was determined map overlays could be accomplished in-house by the GIS Coordinator. Clarification is still needed as to whether the COA will need to take a physical address and convert it to a lot/parcel number before the maps can be developed. The map series will plot the actual locations of homes with a senior on a Wayland map to identify concentrations. Overlay maps will identify current services (grocery stores, restaurants, etc.), town buildings (library, schools, art center, Public Safety, Town Building, etc.) A separate overlay will identify approved housing developments that have not yet been completed as well as proposed developments that could be attractive to a senior population. This information will help us to better identify transportation routes, centrally located facilities for senior programs/services. Actuarial
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projections of a senior population for the next decade will be critical to determine level of COA service needed to meet the increasing demands. That component of the study will most likely need to be outsourced. As transportation, COA programs, services and space are all critical issues, the question was raised if a Senior Center Study Committee should be created and a community needs assessment commissioned. COA Board Member and Friends of the Wayland COA Co-President Betsy Willard questioned if the Town might support such a study if the COA only needed matching funds from the Town. The Friends will discuss the possibility of subsidizing the needs assessment.

COA AWARENESS INITIATIVE

BETSY WILLARD

**DISCUSSION**

There was continued discussion on ways to educate the public about the COA and its integral role in the community. Regular articles in publications or a dedicated newspaper column were discussed. The Directors will suggest topics for articles.

CONGRESSMAN TSONGAS TELEPHONE  
CONFERENCE

MARY ANTES

**DISCUSSION**

Mary Antes participated in a district telephone conference call with Congressman Tsongas to discuss healthcare reform. The Directors questioned the most balanced way to present information on healthcare reform. It was questioned if the League of Women Voters might consider being the moderator, asking specific questions that would be of interest to a senior population. Republican and Democratic panelists would be asked to respond. The Directors will try to identify individuals who are sufficiently aware of the complexities of healthcare reform and be willing to participate in a panel discussion.

**CONCLUSIONS**

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.  
The next COA Board Meeting will be held October 6, 2009 at 7pm.