

Wayland Council On Aging

MINUTES

JANUARY 4, 2011

7:00PM

WAYLAND SENIOR CENTER

FACILITATOR	Betsy Soule, Chair
NOTE TAKER	Mary Antes, Secretary
ATTENDEES	<u>COA Board Members Present:</u> Betsy Soule, Chair; Mary Antes, Evelyn Ekmejian, Harriet Onello, Geoff Smith, Betsy Willard, Denise Yurkofsky, Bill Zellen <u>COA Board Members Absent:</u> Bill Sterling <u>Co-Director:</u> JoAnn Kunz and Julie Secord
VISITORS	John Blair, Betsy Connolly, Susan Pope
PUBLIC COMMENT	N/A

Agenda topics: Meeting Convened at 7:02pm

MINUTES

BETSY SOULE, CHAIR

DISCUSSION	The minutes for November 2 and December 7 were reviewed.
ACTION	The minutes for both months were approved unanimously (November motion: Onello/Zellen; December motion: Smith/Onello with the correction of the date)

PILOT PRESENTATION

BETSY CONNOLLY

DISCUSSION	Betsy Connolly reviewed the mission and accomplishments of PILOT and the demographics of the senior population. She described the structure of PILOT and the kinds of services it might provide to help seniors continue to live independently in their own homes. Two of the biggest challenges are whether residents will become members in sufficient numbers and how to pay the start-up costs of the organization. Betsy said that she has been encouraged to apply for town funds. Because of the upcoming warrant article deadline, it will be necessary to submit a petitioner's article but she hopes that the COA board will support such an article. In response to questions, Betsy said she thought the funds would have to be funneled through the COA. She did not yet have an answer to the concern about the possible conflict between the COA's mandate to serve everyone and PILOT's mission to serve its members. Evelyn expressed concern about duplication of services with Bay Path, whose services are not limited to low-income seniors.
ACTION	The board did not take any action but will consider support of the article after reviewing it

BAY PATH

EVELYN EKMEJIAN

DISCUSSION	Evelyn reported that Bay Path is concerned about funding. The agency is currently providing services to 26 Wayland residents; one person is on the waiting list. Volunteer transportation is coming (ITNAmerica) that can be used for any purpose. Volunteer drivers are provided with insurance coverage and earn credit for driving others. Seniors can donate their cars for credit.
ACTION	

TAX RELIEF

GEOFF SMITH

DISCUSSION	Geoff reported that the language in the Municipal Relief Bill still needs to be straightened out. The Hamilton bill provides tax abatements of up to \$5,000 for qualified seniors. The resulting gap in taxes is made up in the tax bills of other residents. Geoff said that if a Hamilton-type bill were to pass statewide, it would help quite a few seniors in Wayland. Sudbury has an article similar to the Hamilton bill on its Annual Town Meeting warrant. The next regional tax relief meeting is January 18 th .
ACTION	It was agreed to study the issues related to a Hamilton-type bill and then perhaps submit an article for the fall Town Meeting.

FRIENDS OF THE COA

BETSY WILLARD

DISCUSSION	Betsy said the group will meet on Thursday. They have done well financially with donations through the appeal letter and the Iron Chef.
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ACTION	
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DIRECTORS' REPORT

JOANN KUNZ AND JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	<p>There is an increasing awareness of the services of the COA by people of all ages so the center continues to be very busy. Some activities such as fuel assistance are cyclical. At such times, it is necessary to triage some needs because of the demands on staff time. There is concern that staff tends to be reactive because there is no time to be proactive.</p> <p>There are 90 reservations for the luncheon in honor of Marge; presentations begin at 12:35. There is a coffee hour for her on Friday. The board's gift is a Nook and the employees' gift is a hand-held cam corder. Nancy Mandeville has been hired. For three or four weeks, she will split her time between the COA and Conservation.</p> <p>An IT volunteer will work on the website and then on online registration. Upcoming programs include electronics recycling and in May a technology and gadget fair. There will be a meeting on the feasibility study tomorrow morning related to the final report. There are still transportation problems.</p>
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ACTION	
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OTHER BUSINESS

DISCUSSION	<p>Betsy W said she would like the board to set some 2011 objectives against which it can measure its progress during the year. Denise said that "being reactive" is a red flag and she suggested looking for a grant that would provide money for staffing. A group like SOAR55 might be able to help with rebranding and strategic goal setting. There was consensus on holding a two-hour retreat prior to the next board meeting. The board will be notified of the location and time of the retreat.</p> <p>The board discussed the PILOT presentation.</p>
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ACTION	It was agreed that the board would not endorse the PILOT request for funding from the town until it had more information.
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ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION	The meeting adjourned at 9:15. The next COA meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 at 7:00 pm
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