

Wayland Council on Aging

MINUTES

APRIL 9, 2014

8:00AM

LARGE HEARING ROOM

FACILITATOR	Betsy Soule, Chair
NOTE TAKER	Mary Antes, Secretary
ATTENDEES	COA Board Members Present: Betsy Soule, Chair; Mary Antes, Evelyn Ekmejian, Nancy Leifer, Harriet Onello, Becky Patterson, Denise Yurkofsky, Bill Zellen COA Board Members Absent: Bill Sterling <u>Director:</u> Julie Secord <u>Guests:</u> Senior Tax Relief Committee: Rebecca MacGregor, Lin and Joan Bradford, Steve Colella, Pauline DiCesare, Ann Gilbert; Don Bustin
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment..

Agenda topics: Meeting Convened at 8:03am

MINUTES

BOARD

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	The minutes of February 25, 2014 were unanimously approved (Onello/Patterson) with one correction: the word "monthly" was deleted regarding the tax relief meetings in Westwood.

BAY PATH

EVELYN EKMAJIAN

DISCUSSION	Because of term limits, Evelyn must step down from the Bay Path board for one year. She would like to continue to represent the Wayland COA after that time. The commitment requires one monthly meeting (4 th Wednesday from 1 to 3) and serving on a committee. Candy Stein, who recently retired from the Weston COA, might be approached to serve as interim representative. An item could be put in the newsletter. Personnel turnover continues to be a problem because of low pay and costly insurance coverage. Employees recently received a retroactive pay increase and 70 percent insurance coverage, which should reduce the turnover rate. Caseloads have been reduced from 90 to 70 and more case managers are being hired. Since Bay Path took over meal delivery, the meals have improved and losses of \$10,000 per month have stopped.
ACTION	

FRIENDS OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	The appeal letter has gone to the printer. The lobster fest will be held on October 5 th and will include an art show. The Friends have approved the purchase of a media cart. Julie continues to explore new software, which could be expensive.
ACTION	

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	The staff has moved to virtual desk top software and is trying to register people for events online. The computer lab, now located by the Town Clerk's office, is having printer problems. Julie said there are concerns about Veterans Services. Staff needs to have a better understanding of the options for service that are available. Denise may have a speaker suggestion. On several recent mornings, Julie has discovered that the media remote control doesn't work and needs to be re-programmed at a cost of several hundred dollars. The problem seems to be the result of someone using the ceiling projector for after-hour meetings, by-passing the remote and this damages the remote. She is purchasing a cover for the ceiling projector.
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	<p>Julie has organized a summer concert series for five consecutive Thursday nights, including steel, oldies, and big bands. She has three sponsors including the Cultural Council. The department budget is pretty much on target. Some people may not complete their tax work-off hours. At the next meeting, Julie will have job descriptions, the first step in dealing with personnel issues for the FY 16 budget.</p> <p>Shawna is doing a fabulous job coordinating transportation. Parking is still a nightmare at times. There needs to be more education about parking needs and better coordination. The staff is working on a policy for people who need assistance on trips. If a service dog is required, the number of passengers must be reduced. With the reopening of Loker, the COA will lose space for storage of medical equipment.</p>
ACTION	

**JOINT MEETING OF COA AND SENIOR TAX
RELIEF COMMITTEE**

BOARD

DISCUSSION	<p>The Senior Tax Relief Committee joined the COA Board. The committee has three goals: get the word out about what services and exemptions are available; try to expand the exemptions, including tailoring flyers to Wayland; and explore/generate new ideas. The Valor Act, promoted by the District Veterans Services, is similar to the tax work-off program but for Veterans of any age. There is no funding, structure, parameters, etc. The hourly rates are different. There are a number of questions about the program, including who would manage the program, Veterans' Services or the COA; and could an individual participate in both the town and the Valor program. There needs to be additional research and discussion.</p>
ACTION	

OTHER

BOARD

DISCUSSION	There was a suggestion for a new board member.
ACTION	The candidate will be invited to the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION	The next meeting will be Monday, May 5, 2014 at 8 am.
ACTION	The meeting was adjourned at 9:23.