

Wayland Council on Aging

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 3, 2013 8:06AM

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, Bill Sterling, Denise Yurkofsky <u>COA Board Members Absent:</u> Becky Patterson, , Bill Zellen <u>Director:</u> Julie Secord <u>Guest:</u> Nancy Leifer
PUBLIC COMMENT	There was no public comment. However Nancy Leifer was introduced as a possible new board member.

Agenda topics: Meeting Convened at 8:12am

MINUTES

BOARD

DISCUSSION	The minutes of May 7 th were approved (Onello/Ekmejian) with one abstention. The minutes of July 9 th were approved unanimously (Ekmejian/Onello).
ACTION	

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	<p>Julie reported that this has been the busiest summer. The van has been used extensively; people like to go places. A walking series will begin this month to places such as Walden Pond and the Blue Hills. Online registration continues to be challenging. The director of the MGH Museum of Medical History and Brendan Decker, Wayland GIS coordinator, will each make presentations during September. A master player will begin teaching bridge. Parking will be difficult until the repaved parking lot has been lined.</p> <p>The first staff meeting since the firing is tomorrow. Julie will bring up the accessibility from the large hearing room again. Under the new rules, the tax work-off program requires 14 pages of paperwork. Some participants question whether the tax break is worth the time required to apply, particularly if the paperwork must be done each year...About 44 slots are filled.</p> <p>The Senior Tax Relief Committee continues to have difficulty getting a quorum. They have asked that the size of the committee be reduced from 9 to 7 people. MCOA tax relief meetings are irregular.</p>
ACTION	

BAY PATH

EVELYN EKMEJIAN

DISCUSSION	Evelyn said that the next Bay Path meeting is at the end of the month. Julie attended the hearing of the Bay Path Elder Service new strategic plan. It recommends improving the agency's online presence but says nothing about emergency preparedness or dealing with issues such as hoarding. It mentions reaching out to discharge planners but there is little reference to COA
ACTION	

FRIENDS OF THE COA

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	The Lobster Fest is September 15 th at Sandy Burr. There will be lobster, steak tips, chicken, and Lizzy's ice cream sundaes as well as a dessert auction.
ACTION	

MISSION STATEMENT

BOARD

DISCUSSION	The mission statement has not been reviewed in some time. Educational programs designed to help seniors make good decisions and live independently are not represented in the current document although they are an important part of the COA. Should life-long learning and employment options be part of the
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	COA mission? Suggested changes should be sent to Julie.
ACTION	Betsy, Denise, and Mary will work with Julie on revisions. The COA's enabling legislation should also be checked.

COA/LIBRARY INITIATIVE

BILL STERLING

DISCUSSION	<p>The two boards will continue to work together but will not submit any articles for the fall Town Meeting. (The Finance Committee could request an additional study.) However the library is not giving clear signals on its desire to move forward. Harriet suggested that the COA focus on its desires and needs. We need to build a groundswell of support for a new facility. Julie likes the idea of a combined COA/library facility; she sees the recreation department as working more with youth. What the library seems to need is a larger meeting space and teen center. This might suggest a branch library rather than an entirely new facility. Denise suggested that the COA see itself as the prime occupant of the building and see how the library fits it. This might reduce the size of a new building.</p> <p>Bill will be a speaker at the MCOA Annual Meeting in October.</p>
ACTION	The COA should reach out to the Selectmen and get a sense of timing from the Finance Committee. Julie will investigate ReServe, an organization like SOAR, to see how to move the project along. We should ask seniors what they want. Bill and Betsy will discuss next steps with the library and they could meet with Doug Leard, the BOS liaison to the COA.

OTHER

BOARD

DISCUSSION	Mary will attend the Open Meeting Law training. Bill S. said he and Denise are still interested in setting up a bocce club. Traditions has a court but it is not being used. It is likely to be used more often if it were in the courtyard of the Town Building.
ACTION	An article will be put in the newsletter to solicit interest.

ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION	The next meeting will be October 1, 2013 at 8 am. The November meeting is scheduled for election day.
ACTION	We will check with the Town Clerk to see if there is an election in Wayland on November 5 th . The meeting was adjourned 9:28am.