

Wayland Council on Aging

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 2, 2014 8:00AM

SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM

FACILITATOR	Betsy Soule, Chair
NOTE TAKER	Mary Antes, Secretary
ATTENDEES	<u>COA Board Members Present:</u> Betsy Soule, Chair; Mary Antes, Evelyn Ekmejian, Nancy Leifer, Becky Patterson, Ellen Scult, Bill Sterling, Denise Yurkofsky, <u>COA Board Members Absent:</u> <u>Director:</u> Julie Secord <u>Guests:</u> Don Bustin, Gail Shapiro
PUBLIC COMMENT	Gail Shapiro read a statement opposing the possible location of a senior/community center in the Town Center (lack of ownership of the property, lack of parking, location in wetlands/flood plain, inappropriate timing because of high school and DPW construction expenses). She suggested putting the facility in the Finnerty's location near the majority of seniors and asked that it have rental space for independent presenters like herself.

Agenda topics: Meeting Convened at 8:05am

INTRODUCTIONS

BOARD

DISCUSSION	The board members introduced themselves and welcomed new member Ellen Scult.
ACTION	

MINUTES

BOARD

DISCUSSION	The minutes of July 7 th , August 20 th with the Recreation Commission, and the minutes of the August 25 th meeting with the Board of Selectmen were reviewed.
ACTION	It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to approve the minutes of July 7, 2014 (Yurkofsky/ Patterson). The minutes of August 20, 2014 were moved, seconded, and unanimously approved (Yurkofsky/ Patterson). The minutes of August 25, 2014 were approved with one abstention (Sterling/Yurkofsky).

BAY PATH

EVELYN EKMAJIAN

DISCUSSION	The Bay Path board does not meet in August. Carol Glick may be interested in representing Wayland on the Bay Path board.
ACTION	

FRIENDS OF THE COA

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	The Lobster Fest is October 5 th . Tickets are now on sale and about 20 percent have already been sold. New this year is a sale of art work created by local artists who are students of Cecelia Sharman. There will be an auction of goods and services and wine and beer bottle auction.
ACTION	

QUEST FOR SPACE

BILL STERLING

DISCUSSION	Bill responded to some of the concerns raised during public comment: the land will be acquired; the developer will provide parking or money for parking; the project is not in the wetlands or flood zone. At Julie's request, Brendan is working on a map that locates all seniors in town. The board believes that it is better to locate a senior/community center in the center of Wayland rather than at one end of town, such as at the DPW site (that is of interest to both the library and the Recreation Commission) or at Finnerty's, which would have to be purchased.
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	<p>The issue of money is a real concern. The board will have to convince the public that a senior/community center is a need, not a want. The plan already includes rental space but does not mention the intent to do fundraising. Responses to these concerns should be part of a planned PR campaign.</p> <p>At the Selectmen's meeting, John Senchyshyn was asked to develop a charge for a committee to study the feasibility of utilizing the former day care center as a senior/community center. There were several suggestions for improving the charge: change the name from senior center to COA/community center; add more senior representation to the committee; and evaluate the revenue potential. It was agreed that there is value in doing the whole project, including a gym, at one time but the fact that there is no decision about the fate of the current town building makes that problematic.</p> <p>Betsy, Bill, and Julie talked with Library Trustee Aida Gennis and librarian Ann Knight about the COA's efforts and they believe that the Trustees would support the community center.</p>
ACTION	Julie will draft a narrative to accompany the board's request that the \$5 million in the Finance Committee's capital plan for a combined COA/library facility be changed to a COA/community center.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	<p>Having the durable medical equipment in the Public Safety Building is working out very well. It can be accessed 24/7. There are fewer applicants for the tax work-off program; many are concerned about the amount of personal information required as part of the 12-14 page application. Some of the work positions are problematic. Both the Department of Public Works and the Assessors need help after the first of the year, which allows only a short period of time to complete the required number of hours by the March 31st deadline.</p> <p>The software upgrade is behind schedule. The COA had hoped that training could take place over the summer before the fall activities began. Both the manual and the electronic systems will be used initially. The staff is considering going to the Wayland Business Association to see about getting rewards for using the fobs.</p> <p>The town is reviewing the IRS investigation of the Sudbury COA to improve its practices so as to avoid a similar investigation here. The summer outdoor concerts were a big success and will be organized again next year. The COA and League of Women Voters are co-sponsoring a meet and greet with the candidates for state representative and state senator on Friday, September 5th.</p>
ACTION	

SENIOR TAX RELIEF

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	The Senior Tax Relief Committee will meet next week. It is working on a letter to the Legislature to change the income limits in state law. It is also looking at better ways to get the word out about existing tax relief programs.
ACTION	

ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION	The next meeting will be Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at 8 am.
ACTION	The meeting was adjourned.