

Wayland Council on Aging

MINUTES

JULY 18, 2017

8:00AM

COA CENTER

FACILITATOR	Betsy Soule, Chair
NOTE TAKER	Mary Antes, Secretary
ATTENDEES	COA Board Members Present: Mary Antes, Evelyn Ekmejian, Carol Glick, Nancy Leifer, Becky Patterson, Ellen Scult, Betsy Soule, Bill Sterling, Denise Yurkofsky COA Board Members Absent: <u>Director:</u> Julie Secord <u>Guest:</u>
PUBLIC COMMENT	

Agenda Topics: Meeting Convened at 8:08am

MINUTES

BOARD

DISCUSSION	The minutes of June 6, 2017 were reviewed.
ACTION	The minutes of June 6, 2017 were approved unanimously as corrected (Sterling/Patterson).

BAYPATH ELDER SERVICES REPORT

CAROL GLICK

DISCUSSION	<p>Carol distributed the June 17th BayPath Board Highlights. She said the Governor proposed a five percent increase in home care but she isn't sure it was approved. Julie is concerned because there are a number of Wayland residents on the wait list because there is insufficient staff. Betsy said that Senator Eldridge has proposed a \$15/hour wage for day care providers.</p> <p>At the last meeting, Denise reported that there are several MassHealth/Medicaid programs that offer home care help to seniors who live in the community who qualify for nursing home care. The purpose of the programs is to help enable people to remain at home. These are called waiver programs because the financial eligibility requirements were only applied to the ill spouse, not the healthy spouse. Recently, the requirements were imposed with respect to the healthy spouse, making many ineligible. Denise said Medicaid recently said that it would return to the old system and not count the income or assets of the healthy spouse, which is helpful to many trying to stay home.</p>
ACTION	Betsy will invite Sen. Eldridge to the next board meeting.

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	<p>Julie reported the committee met in June and will meet again in August. Although the chair resigned, there are enough members to make a quorum. Just as the information cards were being finalized, the Valor Act is changing. The IRS is requiring that the Valor Act program be treated the same as the tax work-off program. Checks will go to the individual, not directly toward the property tax.</p> <p>There are 38 applicants for the 40 tax work-off slots. A lottery will determine the order for job placement.</p>
ACTION	

FRIENDS OF THE COA

NANCY LEIFER

DISCUSSION	The tickets for the Comedy Club fundraiser that will be held on Saturday, September 23 rd are available online, at Village Bank, or at the Senior Center. Tickets are \$75.
ACTION	

CRITICAL SPACE NEEDS

BILL STERLING

DISCUSSION	Bill reported on conversations he has had with Library Trustees Chair Aida Gennis now that the state has selected Wayland for a grant award of \$10 million. Many are concerned that the town portion for a new
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	<p>library, estimated at \$19 million, is more than the town can afford. A newly identified town need is the immediate replacement of the stadium and track at the high school. The facility has deteriorated to the point where it can no longer be used for high school meets. The estimated cost for repairs is \$8 million. In response to a question, Bill said that if the library plans were to change at this point, the Trustees would have to submit a new application.</p> <p>Bill said that the COA will be approached about its interest in using the existing library building for a senior center. There was discussion of what renovations would be needed (new elevator, better wheel chair access, new boiler), the impact of the Roby trust requirement that the land continue to be used as a library, the limited parking, the offer by the abutter to sell an acre of his land to the town. Denise asked the board what space would be best for the COA. The consensus of the board is that the town center parcel would best serve the COA. The town center location, the size of the building, the amount of space for parking are all preferable to the current library space. There are too many hurdles to overcome and, in addition, the library expects to be in the current building for another five years.</p> <p>Bill suggested that one option is to ask the current owners of the town center to build a senior center/ community center and to sign a long-term lease with the town. The owners would have a guaranteed income and the town would avoid another large expense to be bonded. It was suggested that Bill meet with the Economic Development Committee to discuss this idea. Another option is to take the land by eminent domain, which would release the owners from any liability but the town would have to pay market rate for the land.</p>
ACTION	Bill will endeavor to meet with the Economic Development Committee.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Julie said vendors continue to offer programming to the COA in order to make a pitch for their services. She would like a clear policy that states that the COA cannot make referrals. b. Julie is trying to structure a process for a community needs assessment that includes focus groups, questionnaires, etc. c. d. The concert series was great and fully sponsored. The Great Courses series is bringing in lots of new people. Ann has conducted an inventory of the medical equipment and is developing a brochure. A tax work-off person will take photographs of the equipment so potential users can identify the equipment that satisfies their needs. The digital sign board will soon be up. WAYSecure is off to a slow start but is building. Nancy is back almost full time after her grand jury duty of three months.
ACTION	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Julie will draft a policy and Betsy will tweak it. b. Betsy will send Julie information about a community needs assessment consultant. c. Julie will talk with Joe Nolan, chair of the MWRTA, about expanding options to provide transportation services within Wayland.

NOMINATION AND ELECTIONS

DISCUSSION	
ACTION	It was moved, seconded, and unanimously voted to re-elect the current officers: Betsy Soule, chair; Bill Sterling, vice chair; and Mary Antes, secretary (Leifer/Patterson).

ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION	The next meeting will be Tuesday, September 12, 2017 at 8 am.
ACTION	The meeting was adjourned at 9:17. The board, courtesy of Nancy Leifer, honored the staff with a lovely appreciation breakfast.

Materials handed out at the meeting:

- Agenda
- June 6, 2017 Minutes
- BayPath Board Highlights, June 2017