

Wayland Council on Aging

MINUTES

MARCH 7, 2017

8:00AM

SCHOOL COMMITTEE ROOM

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

Agenda Topics: Meeting Convened at 8:03am

MINUTES

BOARD

DISCUSSION	The minutes of February 7, 2017 were reviewed.
ACTION	The minutes of February 7, 2017 were approved unanimously (Yurkofsky/Patterson).

SENIOR TAX RELIEF COMMITTEE

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	Julie reported that the committee will meet tomorrow night.
ACTION	

GORDON CLIFF

GORDON CLIFF

DISCUSSION	Gordon, a member of the Finance Committee (FC), but not its spokesperson, said he recognizes how frustrating it has been for the Council to work for years to get better space for seniors without making much progress. He came to talk about how to move forward. He said the FC tries to manage expenditures and the five-year capital plan but the committee is uncomfortable making decisions on what the priorities of the town should be. He said there are two major concerns (money and the environment) and no good options. Even using the existing building on the municipal site will cost \$7 to 15 million to rehab for a senior center. Building on the Paine Estate is at least seven years away. He wondered about the use of a modular building for town employees at the town building location, releasing space in the building that the COA could use. Other pressures are Moody's rating and the number of seniors who speak against the project. If substantial money is put into town building repairs, the COA will be in the same space for another 20 years. The COA provides important services that are not always recognized by residents. Gordon recommended wiping the slate clean, working with the Board of Selectmen, and developing a 20 year plan. He felt saying yes to a new library building means saying no to a new senior center. There were several suggestions for moving forward: asking the Friends for money to fund a writer to do some PR; pursuing a resolution on the municipal parcel; and waiting to see if the library receives a grant. The COA's preferred location for a senior center continues to be the town center. Problems with the existing library include insufficient parking and a difficult intersection.
ACTION	

BAYPATH ELDER SERVICES REPORT

CAROL GLICK

DISCUSSION	Carol distributed copies of the BayPath Board Highlights for February.
ACTION	

FRIENDS OF THE COA

NANCY LEIFER

DISCUSSION	The next meeting will be mid-March.
ACTION	

UPDATE ON THE LIBRARY'S PLANS

AIDA GENNIS

DISCUSSION	<p>Aida updated the board on the library article coming before Town Meeting. The final step in the application process is to request Town Meeting approval of the preliminary design for the construction of a new library and to apply for, accept, and expend any state library construction funds. If the town receives a grant, the Trustees will request construction funds at the 2018 Annual Town Meeting, and if approved, they would anticipate being in the new building in 2021.</p> <p>Aida also described the process for resolving the deed issue. If the existing building must have a library use, the Trustees have been told that a check-in, check-out counter, shelving, and/or reading space would suffice.</p>
ACTION	

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JULIE SECORD

DISCUSSION	The director's report was abbreviated because of the lateness of the hour. Julie reported that the department continues to struggle with bonding and liability issues for volunteers such as drivers whose cars are damaged while volunteering or volunteers helping someone in their home. Because Julie is unable to guarantee access to meeting space for multi-session activities, she usually schedules them in other communities. She is trying to learn whether the town fully utilizes its MBTA assessment that goes to the MWRTA. Any monies remaining could be used to supplement the handicapped taxi service.
ACTION	

ADJOURNMENT

DISCUSSION	The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 8 am.
ACTION	The meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

Materials handed out at the meeting:

Agenda

February 7, 2017 Minutes

MA Home Care Program Voluntary Co-Payment and Cost Sharing Schedules

BayPath board Highlights, February 2017, including Enrollment by Town