

**COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

DECEMBER 23, 2010

The following members were present:

Lloyd Smoith, Chairman, Regular Member
Joanne Damish, Vice Chairman, Regular Member
Mary Serena, Secretary, Regular Member
Barbara Coates, Regular Member
Dolores Efthim, Regular Member
Bob Moody, Regular Member
Edith Noyes, Regular Member
Mary Rich, Regular Member
Florence Sundquist, Regular Member
Shirley Esthimer, Associate Member
Ann Murphy, Associate Member
Jim Pellegrine, Associate Member
Victor Serena, Associate Member
Barbara Coghlan, Director

The following members were absent:

Fran Kyne, Regular Member
Terry Lehrman, Treasurer, Associate Member
Terry Ryan, Regular Member
Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker

Guests: Leo Bulavko, Carol Fellini, Doris Foley, McKeen Kessel, Natalie McComb, Mary Murphy, Sally Olson, and Louse Stapleton

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by the chairman, Lloyd Smith. The meeting was held in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

A motion was made by Dolores Efthim to accept the secretary's report as amended. The motion was seconded by Mary Rich and passed (7-0-0).

TREASURER'S REPORT

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Barbara Coghlan took everyone present on a virtual tour of the senior center. She stated that it was important for the Council to have a sense of what is available at the Center. She explained that some necessary changes have been made to the closets and storage spaces. Some space was lost because some space belongs to Civil Defense. Shelves have been built in some closets, but they contain donated items. Other closets have fitness equipment and items used by the Senior Citizens Club. She said she cannot be responsible for personal belongings. She is concerned about money stored. A safe was considered but didn't fit. A locked door will be installed and one key will be given to the Senior Citizens Club. The rest of the area will have two keys because access is needed.

With the help of one of the van drivers, a list was prepared stating the number of people who attend various meetings at the senior center. The list is as follows: Fitness Group (15 – 20 members) – 2 meetings each week, 4 shelves; Senior Citizens Club (10 – 15 members) – 1 meeting a month, 6 cabinets in the kitchen; Mah Jongg (15 – 18 members) – 2 meetings a week, 1 cabinet; Whist Players (30 – 356 members) – 1 meeting a month, 1 closet; Bridge Players (15 members) – 1 meeting a week, 1 cabinet; BINGO Players (20 – 25 members) – 1 meeting a week, 1 closet; Knitters – 15 – 25 members) – 1 meeting a month, share space with the BINGO equipment; Friends of the COA – 1 shelf for paperwork; Lions Club – 2 shelves to store cooking equipment; COA – 2 shelves for paper and 3 shelves for decorations and to store dishes, etc. Barbara stated that Carol Fellini worked hard making things acceptable for each group. Barbara offered to walk around the center with anyone who wanted to after the meeting. Copies are available of the changes in the Open Meeting Law.

OUTREACH WORKER'S REPORT

In the absence of Conchita Geye, her report was read by Mary Serena. Conchita has been busy with fuel applications. Christmas Dinners are being prepared by The Abundant Table in Norwood. New Pond Village donated 10 turkeys to the senior center, which were given to needy elders.

SENIOR CENTER STATUS

Lloyd Smith remarked that there have been several articles regarding a potential new senior center in The Walpole Times and one in The Boston Sunday Globe. A third downtown location for the senior center is being proposed by the Friends. They say they will not support a center at another location. Lloyd said he wrote a letter to the Friends and requested a meeting. Beth, the president of the Friends, Jim Pellegrine, and Lloyd plan to meet on January 18. Jim Pellegrine deserves a lot of credit because he has also worked on this project.

VAN REPORT

The report for the year 2010 was prepared by Carol Fellini, one of the van drivers, and read by Barbara Coghlan. The report is as follows: 52 trips to Stop & Shop for a total of 1404 seniors, 12 trips to Tri-County School for Day of Beauty for a total of 285 seniors, 15 trips to Restaurant of the Month for a total of 285 senior, 24 trips bringing in the virtual bowling people for a total of 192 seniors, 12 errand trips for a total of 120 people, 12 trips to Walmart for a total of 204 people, 12 trips to The Walpole Mall for a total of 200 people, 52 trips to pick up seniors for games for a total of 350 people, 12 trips to pick up seniors for meetings of the Senior Citizens Club for a total of 36 people, and 48 trips to bring people to BINGO for a total of 432. In addition there were trips to pick up people for the Movie of the Month and TRIAD, but there are no records as to how many; 10 dinners throughout the year and usually had 17 or 18 people on the bus, and trips to Rockport, Rhode Island, Boston, etc. with a full bus each time or sometimes both buses were used. Barbara stated that the student will be driving again next week. The small blue vehicle will be taken off the road.

FRIENDS

Mary Rich reported there was no meeting and, therefore, no report

SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Mary Serena said there are the usual games and BINGO. She also said she, Mary Murphy, and her husband Victor, did a lot of work on the closets.

HESSCO

Jim Pellegrine reported there was no regular meeting this month, so there is no report. There was a rewards meeting at Christina's.

KNITTING GROUP

Dolores Efthim reported that Carol Fellini and her husband went to the VA Hospital in West Roxbury to deliver 33 afghans and lap robes and 4 prayer shawls to the veterans at Fisher House. Families of veterans can stay at the house. She said the place is gorgeous. Fisher House sent a thank-you note and stated these items were already being transferred to where they should go. Dolores will prepare a thank-note to be included in the newsletter to thank people for the yard that has been donated.

VETERANS GROUP

Florence Sundquist reported that the next meeting is January 13 at which time the veterans will see the second half of the movie issued by NOIVA regarding the Japanese mini-sub. She mentioned that, at the December meeting when the first half of the movie was shown, it was difficult for people to hear when the heat went on.

OLD BUSINESS

Lloyd Smith said he wrote a letter to Beth Pellick to ask for a meeting with her on a Tuesday or a Thursday before 4:00 p.m. The meeting is open to members of the Council but not the public. People should notify Lloyd if they would like to attend the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Barbara Coghlan reported that Cong. Stephen Lynch was at the Center on Monday to discuss the deadline regarding Medicare. The deadline for any changes in the Medicare Program is December 31. Don Wightman, the SHINE representative, will be available to answer any questions. Appointments are necessary.

The meeting was opened to concerns and questions from the guests that were present.

Natalie McComb brought up the fact that the latest newsletter was received on December 6 at 5:00 p.m.. It was too late to attend the policemen's party for some people. She also said there is no reason why a new senior center has to be in the middle of town. Most other towns in the area do not have the senior center in the center of town. It has already been approved to have a place on Washington Street. She asked if all the meetings of the Friends are closed. She said that, in other communities, people are invited to the Friends meetings. Lloyd answered that the Friends is a private body.

Doris Foley said the town administrator told her the Council has to go through the Master Plan Implementation Committee. She said it was instituted by the state. It is recommended that the Council on Aging go before that committee. Ed Forsberg is the chairman.

Shirley Esthimer would like to see a survey done as to how many people who use the senior center walk as opposed to drive. Doris Foley said she called various towns to find out how many seniors they had over 60. They all have new centers and there are more people in Walpole over 60 than most of the others or maybe even all of them. Carol Fellini, one of the van drivers, pointed out that the Council On Aging has 4 staff members. They have fun and a lot of people are coming in. She said a small number of people put the staff down. Barbara gives support to some seniors who have problems with a son or daughter. Lloyd said there is no question Walpole has the best director.

Shirley Esthimer asked who pays for all the functions? The answer was that, primarily, it is the Friends who pay postage said Barbara. Lloyd added that the town pays a lot of expenses. Barbara can find out more but said it is a joint effort. Doris Foley talked with Stephanie Mercandetti, Economic Development and Grants Officer, about the possibility of using grant money for a senior center. Barbara said Stephanie looked into funding for a free-standing building, but the money is not there. Joanne Damish said the Friends group raises money from the townspeople. The Council should take advantage of the land before someone else gets it. Mary Murphy agreed.

A motion was made by Mary Rich to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mary Serena and passed (7-0-0).

*Respectfully submitted,
Emily Conrad, Secretary*