

COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS
DECEMBER 19, 2013

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on December 19, 2013 in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center. As there was not a quorum present, no votes could be taken. The following people were present:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member
Lloyd Smith, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member
Joanne Damish, Regular Member
Terry Lehrman, Regular Member
Edith Noyes, Regular Member
David Sullivan, Regular Member
Mark Gallivan, Board of Selectmen
Courtney Riley, Director

The following people were absent:

Mary Serena, Secretary, Regular Member
Barbara Coates, Regular Member
Mary Dugdale, Regular Member
Robert Moody, Regular Member
Kristin Smith, Regular Member
Catherine Stanton, Regular Member
Ann Murphy, Associate Member
Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Christy Canney, and McKeen Kessel

Prior to the start of the meeting, slices of pumpkin bread, made by Dolores Efthim, were distributed and enjoyed along with coffee.

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Lloyd Smith, Vice Chairperson, with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report

No vote taken.

Treasurer's Report

Reports were distributed for November and December. Jim Pellegrine verbally reported the updated figures, but no vote could be taken. The question was asked what the funds in the Gift Account could be used for. Courtney suggested that the Council could use a microphone system. It was explained to her that it could not be used in a large room, such as what the Council uses for meetings. However, maybe a simple system could be used. Courtney will look into it and some of the money from the Gift Account could be used to pay for it.

Director's Report

Courtney Riley reported that the owner of Spotsmith in Plainville, Reed Webster, and his 12-year-old son cleaned the chairs at the Center. The son wanted to do something for the Senior Center at no charge. Courtney also reported that the Walpole Co-operative Bank sponsored a holiday meal which was held at Raffael's for people from 12 senior centers, including Walpole.

OUTREACH WORKER'S REPORT

In the absence of Conchita Geyer, the report was read by Edith Noyes. It was reported that six people would be receiving Christmas meals through HESSCO. The meals were to be prepared by the Abundant Tables of the Congregational Church in Norwood and delivered by the Sharon Jewish Men's Club. Seven Christmas presents were to be given from the Blessed Sacrament Giving Tree in Walpole and delivered by a married couple who have been doing it for a number of years. Fuel applications have been mailed to Self Help. Jonathan Cogan, the Town's veterans' agent, will continue to work on the fuel applications while Conchita is away. Courtney and Conchita have been focusing on a client who has dementia along with the VNA and HESSCO. It has been determined that the client is not safe to be at home.

Senior Center Status

Mark Gallivan reported that, as of now, a new center is dependent on the South Street site. The Senior Center would be on the left-hand side coming from Common Street. The buildings on the right-hand side would be taken down and turned into a parking lot the old mill buildings will be torn down on both sides of the street in 2014. It is planned that construction will be started in 2015 for a senior center and a police station he has heard positive results so far. Congressman Stephen Lynch has become involved and is helping to move things forward.

Van Report

Courtney reported that, during November, the 19-passenger bus carried 136 passengers, traveled 414 miles, and used 83 gallons of gas. The 17-passenger van carried 102 passengers, traveled 418 miles, and used 80 gallons of gas. The 12-passenger van carried 42 passengers, traveled 247 miles, and used 24 gallons of gas. Totals for November were 280 passengers, 1079 miles, and 187 gallons of gas. Courtney added that, if the roads are bad, the vans will stay off the road. Dolores added that, on December 4, the Knitting Group went to the Veterans Hospital and brought 103 pieces of knitted goods. She commended Jim Hinds for driving the van that day. Terry stated that she appreciates Jim as a van driver.

Senior Citizens Club

Edith Noyes reported there was no meeting in December.

HESSCO

Jim Pellegrine reported the annual meeting was held at Four Points in Norwood.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Terry Lehrman stated that she, as a person who is in wheelchair, has had a hard time seeing the numbers on the ATM machine at the Walpole Co-operative Bank. She was told that new machinery will be placed there in January so people who use that machine can see the numbers.

Lloyd Smith stated that things have been going well since Courtney has been the director. In turn, Courtney expressed her appreciation to be in Walpole.

Edith Noyes said that Mark Gallivan runs a good selectmen's meeting.

Courtney said she has a tentative site plan for the potential senior center and that people are welcome to see it in her office.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted