

**COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS
FEBRUARY 25, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, February 25, 2016, in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center. The following people were present:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member
Ann Murphy, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member
Terry Lehrman, Secretary, Regular Member
Rich McCarthy, Regular Member
Robert Moody, Regular Member
Edith Noyes, Regular Member
Mary Jones, Associate Member
Laurel St. Pierre, Outreach Worker
Courtney Riley, Director

Absent was Henry Scanzio, Regular Member. One guest was present: Arthur Aho.

The meeting was called to order by the chairperson at 1:30 p.m. The first order of business was to say the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report

It was pointed out that the date on the agenda was incorrect. It read February 26, 2016, and it should have been February 25, 2016. A motion was made to accept the secretary's report. The motion was seconded and passed (7-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

Copies of the treasurer's report were distributed and Jim Pellegrine read off the figures as written. The figure for the Formula Grant is - \$9,512.30. Courtney explained that the money for the Formula Grant should be coming in in another two months and that it is all right to spend the money in the meantime. A motion was made by Rich McCarthy to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Edith Noyes and passed (7-0-0).

Director's Report

Courtney Riley expressed thanks to those who adjusted to changes in the walk-in breakfast. Due to the illness of one of the usual preparers, Rich McCarthy has been filling in. Also, people from various departments in town have been helping.

The newsletter is out. Suggestions have come in that the printing was too small. The newsletter has been enlarged and it also now contains pictures.

Outreach Worker

Laurel St. Pierre reported that, in the month of December, she met with 91 clients and made contact with 31 service providers for a total of 122. Fuel assistance is still going on. Information sheets have been made available regarding the circuit breaker. Last month she attended a program regarding the circuit breaker. Brian Lynch of the Department of Revenue will be coming to the Center on March 14 at 11:30 a.m. to inform seniors on how to help alleviate the high cost of property taxes, who is eligible, and how to apply.

Senior Citizen Status

Courtney Riley distributed copies of information regarding Catlin + Petrovick Architects. This is the firm that has been selected for the proposed new senior center although a contract has not yet been signed. Courtney stated that Council members will be heavily involved as well as the Friends group. The proposed building cannot have a basement but it is expected to consist of 12,000 – 13,000 square feet for a cost of \$5,000,000. Members of the Council were asked to think about amenities. There will have to be a lot of fundraisers.

Van Report

Courtney reported that, in December, the 19-passenger van carried 127 passengers, the 17-passenger van carried 184 passengers, and the 12-passenger van carried 32 passengers. The 19-passenger van traveled 276 miles, the 17-passenger van traveled 547 miles, and the 12-passenger van traveled 98 miles. The 19-passenger van used 31 gallons on gas, the 17-passenger van used 85 gallons of gas, and the 12-passenger van used 23 gallons of gas.

In January, the 19-passenger van carried 74 passengers, the 17-passenger van carried 168 passengers, and the 12-passenger van carried 30 passengers. The 19-passenger van traveled 276 miles, the 17-passenger van traveled 432 miles, and the 12-passenger van traveled 101 miles. The 19-passenger van used 57 gallons of gas, the 17-passenger van used 110 gallons of gas, and the 12-passenger van used 23 gallons of gas. A request has been submitted for a new shopping van. Courtney stated that the present bus is in poor condition. The new van would be handicap-accessible. The AARP will sponsor a Smart Driver Course on Monday, March 21, 2016 at the Walpole Library.

HESSCO

Jim Pellegrine reported that the annual meeting was held at the Sheraton Hotel. Home-care agencies were represented and awards were given to various companies. The recent regular meeting dealt with finances. An accounting firm went over the books and they were verified.

Old Businesss

Terry Lehrman brought up the subject of passengers paying a charge to go grocery shopping. Some senior centers ask that the passengers pay to go shopping. Terry thought it could be a way to raise funds. Courtney stated that she feels it is an important function of the COA, but she doesn't feel comfortable asking people to pay for it. Courtney agreed to put up a sign on the bus, as suggested by Jim Pellegrine, stating that donations to the Senior Center are accepted. There will also be publicity about it.

New Business

None.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2016.

A motion was made by Rich McCarthy to adjourn the meeting at 2:05 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mary Jones and passed (7-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Conrad, Secretary