

COUNCIL ON AGING

WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

JUNE 27, 2013

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, June 27, 2013, at the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center at 1:30 p.m.

The following people were present:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member
Mary Serena, Secretary, Regular Member
Barbara Coates, Regular Member
Joanne Damish, Regular Member
Terry Lehrman, Regular Member
Robert Moody, Regular Member
Edith Noyes, Regular Member
Catherine Stanton, Regular Member
Florence Sundquist, Regular Member
Ann Murphy, Associate Member
Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker
Courtney Riley, Director
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator
Mark Gallivan, Member of the Board of Selectmen

The following members were absent:

Lloyd Smith, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member
Mary Dugdale, Regular Member
Mary Rich, Regular Member
Kristin Smith, Regular Member
David Sullivan, Regular Member

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Richard Brown, and Mary Murphy

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m. by Dolores Efthim, Chairperson.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Jim Pellegrine to accept the secretary's report as written. The motion was seconded by Ann Murphy and passed (9-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

Jim Pellegrine distributed copies of his report and stated there were no major changes. A motion was made by Edith Noyes to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded by Mary Serena and passed (9-0-0).

Director's Report

Courtney Riley announced that two of the buses are now being parked at the DPW – they are safer and more convenient there. She also announced that the rug in the Senior Center is being taken up and will be replaced with new flooring. Also, the Center will be closed at noon on Wednesday, July 3, because of the fireworks. It will be open again on Friday, July 5. A question was asked about the Center being open on July 3 in the evening for the fireworks. Michael Boynton, Town Administrator, stated that this building and the library are considered to not be a safe zone. It has been a practice that this room has been available to seniors on the Night Before the Fourth. He would like to make it available if people want it; otherwise, only public bathrooms will be available. Terry Lehrman stated that she has taken advantage of it most years and hasn't seen any problems. If the room is open, the general public will not be able to use the bathroom in the Senior Center. Courtney expressed appreciation to the Friends group for providing a bus to go to the Newport Playhouse.

Joanne Damish suggested new blinds for the Senior Center. Michael Boynton stated that funds are not available right now for new blinds. Activities will take place elsewhere while the floor is being done.

Outreach Worker's Report

Conchita Geyer reported that she has not yet received the Farmers Market coupons. This month she had three requests to notarize documents, which is more than unusual. She has been unable to help two on-going cases of clients because they are in denial that they need help. She also has three other clients who have been helped by David Sullivan, who has worked wonders with them. Conchita mailed scrolls and cards to two people who became 90 years old. They were mailed at their requests rather than having Conchita deliver them in person, as she usually does. She thanked the Council members for their support and encouragement.

Senior Center Status

Mark Gallivan reported that the Facilities Report has been submitted. The Sewer and Water Commission is concerned about water in the area of Washington Street where the proposed new Senior Center would be. There will be a meeting on July 8 regarding the needs of the town and Plan B. In order for the Washington Street site to become reality, it has to pass at town meeting by a majority of two-thirds. It would be located on an aquifer, which might affect the drinking water.

Van Report

In April, the vans carried a total of 335 passengers, they were driven a total of 1174 miles, and used a total of 174 gallons of gas.

Senior Citizen Club

Mary Serena reported that, at the June meeting, which was the last meeting until September, pizza was provided for all.

Veterans Group

Florence Sundquist reported that Rolls Royce has just completed a \$50,000,000 building. Rolls Royce recently presented a program for the veterans.

HESSCO

Jim Pellegrine reported that the fundraiser, "Strictly Sinatra," was a huge success. About 200 people attended. Dedham Medical has opened a big building in Norwood. HESSCO is trying to coordinate with it.

Old Business

Survey sheets had been given to most members and they had been returned. Some others who were at the meeting and didn't receive them were given them today to be filled out immediately. Dolores read the results of the first group. The totals will be added at the end of this report. The surveys were given out at the suggestion of Emmett Schmarsow,

Mark Gallivan said the Board of Selectmen regretfully accepted the resignation of Florence Sundquist from the Council on Aging. She has given thousands of hours to the town. She was thanked for everything she has done.

Officers for the Council on Aging needed to be nominated. All of the present officers are eligible to remain as officers for one more year (treasurer for 5 more years). A motion was made by Terry Lehrman to keep the present officers for another year. The motion was seconded by Edith Noyes and passed (9-0-0).

New Business

Bob Moody asked about the possibility of making appointments. Mark Gallivan suggested holding off on it. The Board of Selectmen is looking for feedback from the Council on Aging. Jim Pellegrine recommended talking about it in September.

Mary Murphy was pleased that, after she has asked for more parking spaces for the past 13 years, there are now more parking spaces. Courtney Riley stated it was not her decision; it was Michael Boynton's idea.

The results of the survey showing the interests and expertise of the members of the Council on Aging are as follows:

- (1) Nursing background, (2) book club, (3) proofreading, (4) COA funding, (5) grant raising, (6) review programs, (7) program scheduling, (8) home-care services, (9) electronics, (10) communications, (11) construction, (12) home repairs, (13) safety issues, (14) geology, (15) veterans, (16) entertainment, (17) outreach, (18) nursing

homes, (19) knitting and crocheting.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 26, 2013.

A motion was made by Terry Lehrman to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m. The motion was seconded by Jim Pellegrine and passed (9-0-0). Cake and coffee were enjoyed after the meeting in honor of Florence Sundquist.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Conrad

Emily Conrad, Secretary