

COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS
MAY 28, 2015

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, May 28, 2015, in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center. The following people were present:

Joanne Damish, Chairperson, Regular Member
Ann Murphy, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member
Terry Lehrman, Regular Member
Dolores Efthim, Regular Member
Robert Moody, Regular Member
Edith Noyes, Regular Member
Henry Scanzio, Regular Member
Mary Jones, Associate Member
Mark Gallivan, Chairman, Board of Selectmen
Courtney Riley, Director

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Olga Hurley, Lois Horner, James F. Killory, Rich McCarthy, Angelina Schepis, and Phil Schepis

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joanne Damish announced that she is retiring from the Council on Aging after this meeting because of health matters. Dolores Efthim will take over as chairman at that time. All the members accepted the resignation. Joanne announced that the monthly Senior Supper is scheduled for tomorrow at the high school. There won't be another senior supper until September.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Henry Scanzio to accept the minutes of April 23, 2015, as written. The motion was seconded by Bob Moody and passed (7-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

Jim Pellegrine distributed copies of the treasurer's report and brought all the members up to date. A motion was made by Henry Scanzio to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and passed (7-0-0).

Director's Report

Courtney Riley thanked Joanne for all she has done for the COA for the past 10 years. She thanked Dolores as well for taking over at this time of transition. Courtney introduced Mary Jones as a new associate member. After 28 years of service as outreach worker, Conchita Geyer has resigned. The position of outreach worker has been posted. Courtney thanked Union 1957 for paying for everyone who attended the walk-in breakfast earlier this month.

Courtney pointed out that all members should have received a 4-page flyer. It gives basic answers regarding the Walpole Council on Aging and answers some common questions. Dolores commented that it is beautiful. Courtney stated that it was mostly created by Christine Tetreault. Terry Lehrman suggested that some of them be placed at local establishments. Courtney stated the official sign-up date for June activities is Monday, June 1, 2015.

Outreach Worker's Report

Courtney stated that Jon Cogan, Veterans Agent, and Don Wightman, SHINE Counselor, have been taking over some of the duties of the outreach worker.

Van Report

Courtney gave the van report as follows: The number of passengers in April were 114 for the 19-passenger bus, 198 for the 17-passenger bus, and 29 for the 12-passenger bus for a total of 341 passengers. The number of gallons of gas used in April were 62 for the 19-passenger bus, 107 for the 17-passenger bus, and 23 for the 12-passenger bus for a total of 192 gallons of gas. There was no report for mileage.

Senior Citizen Club

Edith Noyes reported that educational games were played at the meeting this month.

HESSCO

Jim Pellegrine reported that HESSCO is working on contracts. The acceptance of applications will end in October.

Senior Center Status

Mark Gallivan reported that, at the town meeting, a vote was taken and passed overwhelmingly for a design of a new senior center on South Street. Also passed were designs for a new police station and the fire station. A project manager needs to be hired and the position has been posted. The need for an RFP (Request for Proposal) has also been posted. The Permanent Building Committee will work with the project manager. The police station is the lead project. The Town took ownership of the South Street site but won't be responsible for anything that is in the ground. There is a need to start fundraising in the fall. Terry Lehrman was concerned about the location of the meal site. Courtney answered that any programs that are provided now will continue to be provided along with any new programs. A person will be needed to handle public relations. Information should be printed in The Walpole Times and The Hometown Weekly. Also, Walpole Cable TV is going to start filming activities that go on at the senior center. Joanne Damish congratulated Mark Gallivan for all he did at the town meeting and for coming to the Council on Aging meetings. There is a new reporter, Adam Stuhlman, for The Walpole Times. It was suggested that the Council help him and he will help us.

Old Business

Courtney distributed copies of the updated version of a list of members of the Council with expiration dates. It will have to be further updated with the resignation of Joanne Damish and the potential resignation of Maria Serena (nothing has been received in writing from her).

Everyone on the Council will receive an invitation to the Volunteer Dinner to be held on June 10, 2015.

Terry Lehrman stated that, right now, the veterans agent is also the ADA (American Disabilities Act) person for the town. Jon Cogan is making house calls to those veterans who can't get out. Terry said veterans should be encouraged to come to the COA meetings and/or see Jon Cogan on any issues they may have.

Joanne Damish pointed out that the new officers won't be in effect until September. The Nominating Committee, consisting of Edith Noyes, Henry Scanzio, and Dolores Efthim, will place their nominations at the June meeting.

New Business

In answer to Olga Hurley, Courtney stated that the new senior center will be used as a senior center but it will be open to other groups at night. She said committees have been meeting at this site and will be continuing to meet in the new one. The same is done at the library. The suggestion was made to have a plaque for those who have donated to the new senior center. Olga requested that she be able to review the plans to make sure it will be handicap accessible. Other suggestion made were to offer outdoor services, have a gift shop where everything is donated, and a pool table. Rich McCarthy plans to become a member of the Council. Lois Horner, who lives at New Pond Village, also plans to become a member. She offered to make both facilities aware of each other's events.

Joanne Damish stated that it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the Council.

COA

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5/28/15

A motion was made by Ann Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 2:40 p.m. The motion was seconded by Henry Scanzio and passed (7-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Conrad

Emily Conrad, Secretary