

**COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS
NOVEMBER 21, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on November 21, 2013 in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center.

The following members were present:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member
Lloyd Smith, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member
Jim Pellegrine, Treasurer, Regular Member
Mary Serena, Secretary, Regular Member
Joanne Damish, Regular Member
Terry Lehrman, Regular Member
Robert Moody, Regular Member
Edith Noyes, Regular Member
Kristin Smith, Regular Member
Catherine Stanton, Regular Member
Ann Murphy, Associate Member

The following members of the staff were present:

Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker
Courtney Riley, Director

The following people were absent:

Barbara Coates, Regular Member
Mary Dugdale, Regular Member
David Sullivan, Regular Member

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Christy Canney, Tom Coughlin, McKeen Kessel, and Victor Serena

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

Secretary's Report

A motion was made and seconded to accept the secretary's report of October 26, 2013. The motion passed (9-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

The report was unavailable, but Jim Pellegrine stated there was not much of a change.

Mandatory Meeting

Prior to the hearing of the remaining reports, Dolores Efthim reminded everyone that, on November 12, a mandatory meeting was called. Unfortunately, only 50 per cent of the members attended; and she heard from none of the others not present. Dolores, who is the chairperson, explained that she was not at the meeting because her husband went into atrial fibrillation. Courtney explained that the seniors in town comprise of 20 – 25 per cent of the population. At the mandatory meeting it was discussed that the members of the Council should be trying to be good representatives of the town. For example, Terry Lehrman stated how she is trying to encourage those in wheelchairs, etc. to become active in the community. Within the past year she has seen more people downtown in wheelchairs than in the past. Terry is now on the Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) for the town. She stated that, at a recent meeting, this committee has been looking at the needs of disabled and older people. Copies of "Emergency Preparedness Handbook" were distributed. On page 15 of the booklet is an article entitled "Preparedness for Populations with Unique Needs."

Bob Moody was asked to speak about his experience in visiting other local Councils on Aging. He talked with the director and other people in Norwood and found they have the same problems Walpole has. He intended to go to Norwood's Council on Aging meeting but missed it. He hopes to go to other Councils on Aging in the future to see how their meetings are conducted. Edith Noyes expressed an interest in going also. Lloyd Smith said that one of the problems is that some members just sit or not come to the meetings at all. The bylaws this Council had in the past stated that members who miss 3 meetings in a row without an explanation were no longer considered members, but that is no longer true. He further stated that people should pull together if they have any ideas about what should be done. He also stated the new director is like a breath of fresh air.

Director's Report

Courtney Riley stated that she was also at the meeting of the LEPC. She said it is important for people to give their names to the Police Department or the Fire Station to be used in case of a disaster. Courtney was pleased with the large turnout to hear Mary Richardson, formerly of Channel 5, and Dr. Kurland of Norwood Hospital when they spoke recently. She said she received a letter from Mary Richardson in which Mary stated that she was impressed with the people in Walpole. Courtney distributed copies of "Holiday Meals for the Seniors" and spoke about each one. They are as follows: (1) Lions Club Dinner on Sunday, December 1, (2) Walpole Co-Operative Bank Luncheon on Wednesday, December 4, (3) Walpole COA Holiday Meal on Thursday, December 5, and (4) Police Dinner on Tuesday, January 7.

Outreach Worker's Report

Conchita Geyer reported that she, along with Jonathan Cogan, Veterans Agent, has been working on fuel applications. Conchita has also been notarizing many documents for Self Help and thanked Lloyd Smith for his help when she was applying to the state several years ago. Courtney and Conchita are working on how to access the elders in Walpole in case of an emergency. Some of them have only cell phones and some may not even be in the system for receiving reverse 911 calls. Eight elders will be receiving meals on Thanksgiving Day, provided by the South Walpole United Methodist Church and delivered by some

college students. Courtney remarked that Conchita has been with the Council on Aging for more than 27 years

Senior Center Status

Courtney reported that plans are moving forward with the focus on South Street.

Van Report

No report.

Senior Citizens Club

Mary Serena reported that, this month, people will be attending the Walpole Co-Operative Bank Luncheon on the usual meeting day of the Senior Citizens Club.

HESSCO

Jim Pellegrine reported that HESSCO had a positive year and is looking forward to a successful year coming up. The Annual Meeting will be held on December 11, 2013.

Old Business

None

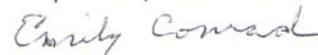
New Business

Terry Lehrman suggested that a family member of someone who has special needs should contact the Police Station or the Fire Department after it is determined what the person's needs are. Bob Moody responded that the Norwood Senior Center has a Living Memorial Program. Information is provided by seniors indicating that donations can be made to the Council on Aging. That information can be included in their obituaries and is used as a means of raising funds for the Senior Center. He said the Norwood Senior Center has several ways of raising money.

Courtney reminded everyone that the winter months can be difficult with weather conditions. The Council on Aging as well as the Veterans Department has lots of resources. She also stated the Sand and Salt Program is available through the Recreation Department. Lloyd Smith pointed out that it would be nice if someone would take over the veterans' services since Florence Sundquist retired from the program several months ago. Dolores Efthim mentioned that she has a Life Line on her wrist to be used in case of an emergency. Having this protection also caused the cost of her house insurance to go down. Terry Lehrman suggested calling 508-668-1212 if something happens away from home (Life Line only covers a person who is home or close to home).

A motion was made by Terry Lehrman to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed (9-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Conrad, Secretary