

COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS
OCTOBER 15, 2015

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, October 15, 2015, in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center. The following people were present:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member
Ann Murphy, Vice Chairperson, Regular Member
Jim Pellegrinte, Treasurer, Regular Member
Theresa 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

The following member was absent:

Henry Scanzio, Regular Member

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Dorothea Atallah-Hanes, Peter Dalton, Jean Duffy, and Carol Reid

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Dolores Efthim and started with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Rich McCarthy to accept the secretary's report as written. The motion was seconded by Ann Murphy and passed (6-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

Jim Pellegrine distributed copies of "Accounts for the Council on Aging Fiscal 2016, October 15, 2015 COA Meeting." The new balance for COA Salaries is \$132,225.29 and the new balance in the COA Expense Account is \$18,416.10. The following accounts stand as follows: COA Programs Account - \$1,993.90, COA Formula Grant - -\$3,819.93, COA Friends of the COA - \$0, COA Building Fund - \$1795.00, COA Revolving Account Health Funding - \$73,006.45, COA Gift Account - \$5,955.56, and Family and Senior Field Trips -

\$0. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report by Ann Murphy. The motion was seconded by Rich McCarthy and passed (6-0-0).

Director's Report

Sal Genovese, Director of the Library, arrived and asked to canvas members' opinions regarding the library. The library is currently involved in a strategic planning process. He presented five questions and said he would like the members' reactions to them. The questions were as follows:

1. What needs do you see the Walpole Public Library fulfilling for Walpole residents?

Responses: Before the library was built a person stated that she was agitated about some things. Now those feelings are pretty much gone. She was looking for things, such as for the handicapped and young mothers, and those matters have been taken care of. Another said she loves it. Still another said they did a wonderful job. One person was glad it has been opened to the Red Cross for blood drives.

2. What are the most beneficial resources, services or programs offered by the library? What are the top three reasons you come to the library?

Responses: Gary Hylander and other speakers. Senior Moments.

3. Are there any services or programs not now offered by the library which you think the library should provide?

Responses: Maybe something for people with limited vision and/or hearing difficulties.

4. Has your use of the Internet or other electronic information supplemented or replaced library services:

Responses: One person said it could be done at home instead of the library. Another person said we can go to the library and do it there instead of home. Concentrate on classics rather than what is currently available on tapes and discs. Friends of the Library has wonderful programs. Customer Service is good. Also good is the availability of electronics and liaison with the Norwood Library. People go to the Norwood Library because they can't get what they are looking for at this library.

5. Any other comments or suggestions that you would like to bring to the library's attention?

Responses: Write a letter to The Walpole Times. A class on how to use computers and other resources. Have someone talk at the Council on Aging. One person said he feels welcomed there. One person asked if there was anyone in the catacombs of the old library.

Courtney Riley reported that she heard from Conchita Geyer, the former outreach worker. She said she was well and received the book that was prepared and signed by people at the Council on Aging with messages.

Outreach Worker

Laurel St. Pierre reported that 23 clients met with her and services were provided to 59 people for a total of 82. She still has Farmers Market coupons available. She went for training so she can help people with Fuel Assistance applications. Applications will be starting the first week in November. While doing some straightening out, she found some eyeglasses. She said there is a huge container at Walmart. People can leave glasses at the Senior Center and they will be taken to Walmart.

Senior Center Status

Courtney Riley reported that the status is about the same as it was last month. Work is still taking place on South Street taking down buildings. Dolores, Bob, and Ann toured the Franklin Senior Center and liked it very much. The biggest suggestion Dolores got was not to economize on space. The Franklin Senior Center is hoping to complete a second floor, which will necessitate an elevator (a huge expense). The dining area in Franklin is exceptional. Ann added that Franklin has a lot of handicap parking spaces. Jim added that the Canton Senior Center is getting crowded, and it has only been there a short time. The Walpole Senior Center should definitely be prepared for the future. Courtney stated that the present Senior Center meets in a room that was never meant to be a senior center (it was a school). Attendance at every senior center built in the past 10 years has gone up 200 per cent. It is estimated that they have gone up 250 per cent in the first year after being built.

Van Report

During September the 19-passenger van carried 109 passengers, the 17-passenger van carried 263 passengers, and the 12-passenger van carried 40 passengers for a total of 412 passengers. The 19-passenger van traveled 339 passengers, the 17-passenger van traveled 790 miles, and the 12-passenger van traveled 209 miles for a total of 1338 miles. The 19-passenger van used 50 gallons of gas, the 17-passenger van used 118 gallons of gas, and the 12—passenger van used 15 gallons of gas for a total of 183 gallons of gas.

HESSCO

No report.

Old Business

A motion was made by Rich McCarthy to move the next meeting to Thursday, November 19 (third Thursday of the month) instead of the usual fourth Thursday of the month because that is Thanksgiving Day. The motion was seconded by Ann Murphy and passed (6-0-0).

A motion was made by Rich McCarthy to move the December meeting to Thursday, December 17, as the usual meeting day of the fourth Thursday is Christmas Eve. The motion was seconded by Ann Murphy and passed (6-0-0).

Veterans Day services will be held on November 11, 2015 at 11:00 a.m. at the high school. It will include the unveiling of a plaque with the names of veterans who attended Walpole schools. Applebees and Texas Roadhouse will have free meals for veterans on that day.

Courtney stated that now is the time to start planning for the winter months. She suggested having enough supplies and back-up power. Anyone at risk can make arrangements to have the Police Department call him/her on bad-weather days.

Bob Moody asked if anything could be done about people who are going on a trip but are not there at the appointed time. Courtney stated that it is extremely hard to tell someone they can't go on a trip. The Center is here to help everyone. Terry stated (although the statement was not directed at her) that sometimes it takes her longer to be on time.

Jean Duffy thanked Courtney for the new policy for signing up for trips. She said it went very smoothly. Unfortunately, quite a few people are not getting the newsletter until after the first of the month. Courtney stated that they are looking into changing the way it is printed. It is sent to Framingham and then sent back to Walpole. They are looking into a company that can do both the printing and putting on addresses. Terry pointed out it is much better than it was 10 years ago.

Regarding the size of the Council, a letter has been written but has not made it onto the Board of Selectmen's agenda yet. Town Meeting is next week.

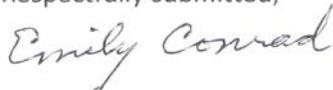
At the last meeting, Terry Lehrman told of some problems at Diamond Pond senior housing. She stated that now insulation of attics is taking place.

New Business

None.

A motion was made by Ann Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 2:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Rich McCarthy and passed (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Conrad, Secretary