

COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS

OCTOBER 24, 2013

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, October 24, 2013, in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center at 1:30 p.m.

The following people were present:

Dolores Efthim, Chairperson, Regular Member
Lloyd Smith, Vice 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
David Sullivan, Regular Member
Ann Murphy, Associate Member
Courtney Riley, Director
Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker
Mark Gallivan, Member of the Board of Selectmen

The following people were absent:

Mary Dugdale, Regular Member
Kristin Smith, Regular Member
Catherine Stanton, Regular Member
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator

The following guests were present: Arthur Aho, Peg Blakeley, McKeen Kessel, and Victor Serena

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

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by David Sullivan to accept the secretary's report as amended. The motion was seconded and passed (9-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

Copies of "Accounts for the Council on Aging Fiscal 2014 October 24, 2013 COA Meeting" were distributed to the members by Jim Pellegrine. He stated the figures as they are currently, which includes two grant accounts. He reported that there were no major changes in figures this month. A motion was made by Lloyd Smith to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Ann Murphy and passed (9-0-0).

Director's Report

Courtney Riley pointed out that the walls are in the process of being painted in the color lemon sorbet, which is a darker yellow from what is in her office to give a contrast. People coming to the breakfast on October 31 are being encouraged to wear costumes. Flyers were distributed regarding the Continue Wellness Tour event on Wednesday, November 6, 2013. The topic, "Memory Loss vs. Dementia," will be led by Norwood Hospital neurologist, Dr. Alan Kurland, and Mary Richardson, former co-anchor of WCVB-TV's Chronicle, Local Channel 8 is filming it. There are two new programs with the Police Department. Courtney will do the training on Alzheimer's and Dementia. The other program will be the first Police Academy for Seniors. It will consist of a 10-week course for 15 people on Wednesday evenings. It starts on November 13, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Also, on Wednesday, November 13, the veterans are going to Natick to a private museum. The Museum of World War II (Veterans should make reservations at the Senior Center.).

Outreach Worker's Report

Conchita Geyer reported that, this month, she has been helping people who recently received their fuel applications for recertification. She has also been receiving numerous telephone calls concerning fuel assistance. Conchita attended a training session at which time she received the new applications and multiple numbers of papers. Jonathan Cogan, Veterans Agent, also attended and will be available to assist Conchita with appointments. She also visited several elders in nursing facilities. She notarized two documents this month, one for an elder and one for a young person who needed it for a paper requested by Self Help for fuel assistance. She is presently booking appointments for fuel assistance for those who are income eligible.

Senior Center Status

Mark Gallivan reported that there was a meeting last week at the library. He said there is another meeting next Tuesday night concerning updates. Conversations with the companies that own the land on South Street will be continued. Barbara Coates asked - Why hasn't that land been taken for taxes? Mark answered with the fact that they don't want to put Walpole in a position to pay a lot of money. Once the EPA approves the land and it is taken over by Walpole, the Town and others will not be responsible. Lloyd Smith questioned about the surface of the soil on the site of the parking lot. Nothing has yet been determined as to the site of the new building, but it may be capped. The building there at present will be taken down. A water treatment plan will also be built there. Joanne Damish expressed concern about Clark Avenue. Courtney said all the buildings on the right-hand side will be taken down and capped. The Police Department and the Senior Center will be on the left-hand side. It was stated there is no need to be concerned about Clark Avenue.

Senior Citizens Club

Mary Serena reported that the agenda for the rest of the year has been planned. They are looking into a place to go for Christmas.

Van Report

The van report was given by Courtney Riley. In September, the 19-passenger vehicle carried 130 passengers, traveled 359 miles, and used 60 gallons of gas. The 17-passenger vehicle carried 118 people, traveled 491 miles, and used 117 gallons of gas. The 12-passenger vehicle carried 68 passengers, traveled 392 miles, and used 41 gallons of gas. The totals for all three vehicles was that they carried 316 passengers, traveled 1242 miles, and used 218 gallons of gas.

HESSCO

No report.

Old Business

Dolores announced that there will be a mandatory meeting on Tuesday, November 12, at 2:00 p.m. for a workshop at the library. There will be discussion as to where the Board wants to go in the future and how the Council on Aging is to be recognized as an important part of the Town. Members are asked to bring ideas. This brainstorming session will be held in the Community Room.

New Business

Terry Lehrman said there will be no senior club meeting this month because it is scheduled for the same day as the wellness event on November 6. Dave Sullivan offered his services if anyone needs something done at their homes, including snowblowing. He would also like to set up a table of items that people no longer want and would be taken by others on a first-come, first-served basis.

Bob Moody stated there will be a program on the common on Veterans Day, November 11, at 11:00 a.m. He also stated that, on Wednesday, October 30, the Red Cross will have a drive to donate blood at the library

Ron Farnum brings in donated food from Starbucks every morning. It has been suggested that food that is left over should be stored in the refrigerator. Courtney Riley stated that the items are wrapped individually before they are brought to the center and there is no need to save them for any special event at the Center.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Conrad