

COUNCIL ON AGING
WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, September 24, 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 Pellegrine, 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: Jean Duffy and Carol Reid

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

Secretary's Report

Dolores Efthim asked everyone to keep in mind that the next meeting will not be held on the fourth Thursday of the month, as usual. Instead, it will be held on the third Thursday of the month, October 15, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. in the Aurelia M. Newell (Senior) Center.

A motion was made by Rich McCarthy to approve the secretary's report for August 27, 2015. The motion was seconded and passed (6-0-0).

Treasurer's Report

Jim Pellegrine distributed copies of his report as of September 24, 2015. He read the current figures for each item and noted the following: Currently the Formula Grant is at a minus figure of \$2,088.68. Money is expected to come in soon. In answer to a question from Bob Moody, Jim explained that gifts of money

go before the Board of Selectmen before the money is given to the Council on Aging Gift Account or any other account as chosen by the donor. A motion was made by Bob Moody and seconded by Rich McCarthy to approve the treasurer's report. The motion passed (6-0-0).

Director's Report

Copies of "New(s) Horizon," the monthly newsletter from the Walpole Council on Aging, were distributed. Courtney Riley stated that a new event has just been created – on Saturday, October 17, 2015, there will be a Jarvis Harvest at Jarvis Farm. There will be food, vendors, and other activities and it is on the calendar. The Flu Clinic is scheduled for October 26, 2015. As already stated, the next meeting of the COA will be held on October 15, 2015 because the Walpole Co-operative Bank has scheduled its annual luncheon for October 22, 2015. Tickets have been provided for 180 Walpole seniors. In addition, there will be a Holiday Party at Raffael's on December 16 for 180 Walpole seniors. A motion was made by Terry Lehrman to accept the director's report. The motion was seconded by Edith Noyes and passed (6-0-0).

Outreach Worker's Report

Laurel St. Pierre reported that she is working at getting all information on the computer. In August she met with 67 clients and 10 service providers. A few Farmers Market coupons are still available. Fuel assistance won't be available until November 1, 2015. She is learning more about the program and how it works.

Senior Center Status

Courtney Riley stated that the plans for a new senior center are going along well. The Town has hired a project manager by the name of Compass. The next step is to hire an architect. The first project will be to build a new police station. The Council on Aging has money for design plans after which the Council would try to get a grant. Dolores pointed out that Walpole, like the surrounding towns, continues to grow. In talking with area COA directors who have already built free-standing buildings, the repeated advice given is that Walpole not economize on space within the building and in the parking area. Walpole needs to make the new senior center big enough to handle the growth. Walpole can learn from other centers that have been through the process. Laurel St. Pierre stated that some centers are in renovated buildings. Franklin, which is one of the newer senior centers, has hired a cook for the preparation of breakfast and lunch daily.

Van Report

The Van Report had not yet been prepared. It was later given to the secretary and is included in this report. In August the 19-passenger van carried 113 passengers, the 17-passenger van carried 291 passengers, and the 12-passenger van carried 17 passengers for a total of 421 passengers. The 19-passenger van traveled 305 miles, the 17-passenger van traveled 955 miles, and the 12-passenger van traveled 161 miles for a total of 1421 miles. The 19-passenger van used 86 gallons of gas, the 17-passenger van used 161 gallons of gas, and the 12-passenger van used 23 gallons of gas for a total of 270 gallons of gas.

Senior Citizens Club

The Club, at this point, is re-grouping. At present, there is no president, no vice president, no secretary, and no treasurer.

HESSCO

Copies of a pamphlet from Metrowest Legal Services were distributed. Legal services are available regardless of income.

Old Business

Courtney brought up the subject of membership of the Council. It was discussed at the September meeting that the number of regular members should go down from 11 to 9 and consist of 5 members, at least, for a quorum. A motion was made by Rich McCarthy that the Council inform the Board of Selectmen that it would like to reduce its membership from 11 to 9 members for a quorum of 5. The motion was seconded by Bob Moody and passed (6-0-0). This request has to be posted for 30 days.

New Business

Terry Lehrman stated that she has heard complaints about there being bed bugs at Diamond Pond senior housing. She said a meeting was scheduled for today between the residents and the exterminator. She just thought the Council would want to know about the situation.

Jean Duffy from the audience asked questions about the Senior Club. She was told it was more of a social club. Courtney stated that any club is open and welcomed to represent the seniors of Walpole. A suggestion was given by Dolores Efthim – have a breakfast club.

Bob Moody pointed out that the Veterans Meeting will not be taking place even though it is in the calendar for October 8, 2015.

A motion was made to adjourn at 2:05 p.m. by Rich McCarthy. The motion was seconded by Mary Jones and passed (6-0-0).

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Conrad