

**COUNCIL ON AGING**

**WALPOLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Council on Aging was held on Thursday, September 26, 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  
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  
Michael Boynton, Town Administrator  
Mark Gallivan, Member of the Board of Selectmen

The following people were absent:

Barbara Coates, Regular Member  
Mary Dugdale, Regular Member  
Kristin Smith, Regular Member  
Catherine Stanton, Regular Member  
Conchita Geyer, Outreach Worker

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Dolores Efthim, Chairperson.

**Secretary's Report**

A motion was made to accept the secretary's report for June by David Sullivan. The motion was seconded and passed (7-0-0) (Jim Pellegrine was not yet at the meeting.).

### Senior Center Status

The meeting was turned over to Michael Boynton as he had to leave early. He stated that the development of a potential senior center has been slow. There had been an issue with the Water Treatment Building regarding the placement of a senior center on Washington Street. The current location under consideration is on South Street. The westerly side is contaminated. The ability of the Town to control the property is nil because the Town doesn't own the land. A meeting was held with the residents of Clark Avenue as it was thought their homes were going to be contaminated. They looked at the easterly side, <sup>and it</sup> was found to be far cleaner than the westerly side. A senior center and a police station could both be built on the easterly side, and parking could be on the westerly side. The people on Clark Avenue would also benefit. The easterly side borders the Neponset River, and a walking path could be created there. An analysis is being made of the site by Fuss & O'Neill Engineers.

Questions were answered by Michael Boynton unless specified otherwise as follows: (1) David Sullivan asked – What is the time frame? Answer – Within the next two months there will be a concept plan. It would be ready to go for a vote in June. Construction of both buildings would start in 2015. (2) David Sullivan asked – Would there be an override? Answer – No. (3) Bob Moody asked - Would the size of the building be the same as previously planned (15,000 square feet)? Answer – Yes, and the police station would be in the 18,000 – 22,000 range. (4) Joanne Damish asked – What is the land area? Answer – He doesn't have an answer but the assessment is that both buildings will fit there, and parking will be on the other side of the street. (5) Lloyd Smith asked – Will we have another survey? Answer – No, that's already done. (6) David Sullivan asked – Has there ever been information on building in a contaminated area? Answer – We will do due diligence now to avoid legal action later on. Mark Gallivan added that it had been very positive about building where it was planned. (7) Lloyd Smith asked – Are we talking about excavation? Answer – We are talking about taking the building down and covering it as a permanent cap. On the other side there would be little excavation. (8) Joanne Damish asked – Does the land go all the way down South Street? Answer – The railroad line goes down. (9) Terry Lehrman asked – Which side is which? Answer – We're talking about building on the left side (when coming off of Common Street).

### Treasurer's Report

The treasurer, Jim Pellegrine, distributed copies of "Accounts for the Council on Aging Fiscal 2013, September 26, 2013 COA Meeting" and "Accounts for the Council on Aging Fiscal 2013, 2013 COA Meeting." He explained the figures for both reports. He clarified the difference between the Building Fund and the Gift Account (there are no restrictions on the Gift Account). Joanne Damish suggested there should be some way to let people know they can donate money to one of these accounts. Courtney Riley said she will look into it. A motion was made by David Sullivan to accept the treasurer's report for the meeting of September 26, 2013. The motion was seconded and passed (8-0-0). A motion was made by David Sullivan to accept the treasurer's report for July – September 2013. The motion was seconded and passed (8-0-0).

**Director's Report**

Courtney Riley expressed many thanks – for the new floor that was installed during the summer (everyone in town pitched in), to Boyden School and the library for the use of their facilities while the floor was being installed,, to Walpole Friends of Elders, who have been very generous (3 coach buses), to the Recreation Department for making the seniors VIP (very important persons) for taking them to the summer concerts, and to Ron Farnum for picking up donations from Starbucks every morning.

Courtney stated that the Hoops & Needles store has closed and donated some of its supplies to the Senior Center. The Senior Center has acquired an electric piano and a new regular piano. Anyone interested in walking for Alzheimer's should contact Joanne Damish. The theme of the annual MCOA (Massachusetts Council on Aging) meeting is "Where Do We Go from Here?" "Memory Loss vs. Dementia" will be the topic of a program to be held at the Walpole Senior Center on Wednesday, November 6, 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Speakers will be Dr. Alan Kurland, a neurologist associated with Norwood Hospital, and Mary Richardson, former co-anchor of WCVB-TV's Chronicle. A future project at the Senior Center is that the walls are to be painted lemon yellow. The old heaters have already been removed.

**Outreach Worker's Report**

As Conchita was unable to be at the meeting, her report was read by Mary Serena. Conchita reported that the summer went well as no elders suffered from dehydration or heat exhaustion (to her knowledge). She distributed all of the Farmers Market coupons before the disruption of having the new floor installed. People have received fuel applications in the mail, and many are of them are intimidated by the requirements. The topic at the outreach workers' meeting in September was "Cultural Diversity," which Conchita found very enjoyable. She notarized three documents and mailed two birthday cards and scrolls to two people who turned 90 years of age.

**Van Report**

Courtney Riley reported that, in July, the vans carried 251 passengers, traveled 1010 miles, and used 184 gallons of gas. During August the vans carried 290 passengers, traveled 1335 miles, and used 198 gallons of gas.

**Senior Citizens Club**

Mary Serena reported that, after the meeting on October 2, the group will be going out to eat. She also stated that the Club is looking for a new president.

**HESSCO**

Jim Pellegrine reported that Caregivers Day will be held on September 27, 2013, at Four Points in Norwood. He also stated that HESSCO's annual meeting will be taking place on December 11, 2013. He said the Area Plan has to be reviewed every four years and it is currently being reviewed. There are no changes in the Board of Directors.

**Old Business**

Joanne Damish remarked that the time last month of honoring Florence Sundquist was very nice. She said that, according to the most recent bylaws, the Council on Aging is supposed to have 20 members. Today there are only 13 at the meeting. Mark Gallivan said the feedback the Board of Selectmen received was that having 20 members was too many. The Board is looking for further feedback. There will be a workshop at the November meeting for the whole Board. Attendance is mandatory. Subjects to be discussed are committees, publicity, attendance, goals, etc. It is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, at 2:00 p.m. at the library. Lloyd Smith asked Mark Gallivan if the Board wanted the COA's input regarding the bylaws. Mark replied that the Board is not going to add any people to the Council on Aging until after there is more feedback. Fundraising was discussed. David Sullivan stated that he can store items that could be sold as yard-sale items. Courtney said she is working towards getting the Council to give back to the town.

Terry Lehrman was concerned about a conflict with the Friends group. Lloyd stated that every town has a Friends group and that there is nothing to stop the COA from having a new, similar organization. Courtney pointed out that the Friends have been very generous to the seniors. Lloyd pointed out that there is a new atmosphere at the Center and the COA should try to get together with the Friends. Mark Gallivan stated that the seniors should have a voice in town. It was further stated that the people in town should be informed about what is going on at the Senior Center. Terry asked that people at the Senior Center should let those who are handicapped know that they are welcome at the Center. Terry said she is interested in writing a letter to the editor of The Walpole Times concerning the handicapped, and she has Courtney's support. Courtney also said she will do some research on the subject. Bob asked how people know when someone is in the hospital or nursing home. Courtney stated that there is a policy to first get permission from that person. Dolores stated that The Walpole Times should include events and trips that are being sponsored by the COA every month. David Sullivan said there are 3914 seniors in town. He and Dolores will talk with the people at The Walpole Times. Jim Pellegrine suggested that each person on the Council think about what they want to see happen between now and the meeting on November 12.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 24, 2013.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Emily Conrad, Secretary