

Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
December 14, 2017

Present: JD Miller (Chairman); Gordon Price (Vice-Chair); Leslie James, Helen Jablonski, Lucille Sorrentino, Caitlin Coyle (Board Members); Jenny Gerbis (COA Outreach Coordinator); Bette Johnson (FOSS); Joan Powers (SSES); Linda Hayes (COA Director). Absent: Janice Lindblom, Janice Desmond, Henry Yeh, John Danehey.

Meeting called to order: 5:30pm

November 2017 minutes accepted by the Board

Director's Report:

- Request for OPM put out by the town for the new senior center. Preliminary time table is proposals would be received in January. Public Bldg Commission meeting on January 19th and hopefully OPM would be interviewed and selected. BOS would approve. Funds are set aside to pay. OPM will send out the RFS for preliminary sight design work. Funds for Phase 1 would be needed to be approved at ATM in April. Schematic design from architect would be presented and request for funding at STM in November 2018 for approval for town wide election. Bette asked if any of the sequence of events based on decisions that town decides on what to do with the old Gates school. Linda replied that it would be up to the PBC. Gordon asked if the PBC was involved in other town building projects. Gordon also asked about the time table and being able to make the deadline for ATM. Linda replied that the deadline is not for the BOS. If they need to add something to the warrant they have that discretion.
- The new phone system is up and running and the staff is still working on adjusting to the system.
- Linda completed the budget and will be meeting with the TA.
- New applications for the Senior Tax Work-off program.
- Staff meetings, Dept. Head meetings, check-in trouble-shooting.
- Able to hold one class in the old Gates school. Programs at the Library need to be free and use of the space is a stop-gap solution and not a long-term.
- Every Monday volunteers continue to pick-up bread from Panera.
- Legislative breakfast was November 17. Helen was able to attend as well as Linda. It was held at the Marshfield COA. Topic was increasing the Formula Grant.
- Pickle ball remains successful. Participants went to SHS and played against high-school students.
- Aging Mastery, Men's Breakfast programs mentioned. iPads have been purchased for the SEF grant program.

- Upcoming: Seniorities will interview Frank Gay of GATRA. Fire Chief John Murphy will be scheduled after that.
- Sub-Committee meeting on Events/Marketing. Parade float will be discussed.
- Transportation/Activities/Social Service reports submitted and included in Director's Report.
- Jenny Gerbis presented Outreach Report: Jenny is working on the database with seniors. Every call received at the COA is logged into a category. Calls that involve more than one topic cannot always get logged in the right way and statistics don't show all the help provided. Over 60 Medicare Part D drug searches were done by Norm/Jenny. It's all on the Medicare website but can be difficult. JD asked if Norm and/or Jenny noticed if they were busier this year v. last year and Jenny did see that this year was busier for Part D drug plans. Jenny announced that she is a Notary Public and will do home visits when needed. Food Pantry has extended hours, adding Thursday afternoons in addition to Tuesday mornings. It's open to citizens of Scituate. SNAP/Food Stamp eligibility makes one eligible for discount on electric/gas bills. Fuel assistance applications have been busy for new and returning clients. Hoarding, peer-run group, has begun. Jenny has been studying elder abuse and wanted people to be aware of the Elder Abuse Hotline number which is anonymous. Gordon asked if there is a screening process for the Food Pantry. Jenny answered that there is an application, but anyone can go. Recipients receive a voucher for the Scituate Marketplace for refrigerated items. No alcohol or cigarettes are allowed. Drop-offs are ½ hour before. Community Christmas has moved to a new building on the corner of Rt. 3A and Mann Lot Rd.

Liaison Reports:

- SSES: Board mtg was November 7 and discussion was leadership during the fire in the building that caused smoke damage in the SSES offices. Annual Audit was accepted. Three SSES board members who are veterans had article in the local Otis Notes. MassHealth had updates and continually changes. A contract was signed for Veteran services/home care. December 12: Board member retraining and information on agencies and where the money goes. (Handout was left with Linda) Different departments, department heads and detailed reports on what they do were given to the Board. Tech director gave report and tour. Volunteers are needed for MOW. No community dinner this month.
- FOSS: December meeting held a couple of days ago. Craft fair was successful, even with other fairs going on. Golf tournament preparation has begun. Discussion among FOSS members re: BOS senior center site selection and decision going against what the COA recommended. Linda added that the COA and FOSS working together to get the new center built.

Age-Friendly Initiative presentation by Caitlin Coyle

- Purpose is to communicate to the community what the COA does and the direction the COA is going.

- Handout on resources distributed to the Board. (WHO & AARP)
- Definition of Age-Friendly Community: What does a community need to do to prepare for aging in place by community members?
- Age-Friendly = People Friendly
- How is a community inclusive and accessible to all members?
- 2010 there were 4300 people age 60 and over in Scituate and growing.
- Organization presents application to become Age-Friendly to BOS/town leadership. Application process includes letter of support from town leaders. Submitted to AARP or WHO.
- Age-Friendly model could help community work together to support new Senior Center.
- Membership in WHO give access to what other towns are doing to become Age-Friendly.
- AARP model is 5-year timeline and completion of project is expected at the end of the 5 years.

Sub-Committee Reports:

- Marketing/Events: Report submitted by Lucille Sorrentino
- Advisory/Long-Term Planning: Next meeting January 4. Discussed was uncertainty of old Gates. Many of the topics discussed at Board meeting were also discussed.

Old Business:

- Gordon spoke of meeting with two members of the BOS as resident, not Board member. He asked about the decision made by the BOS as to the site for the new senior center. The "elephant in the room" is old Gates and it may hamper efforts for funding the project. Gordon read a draft letter that may or may not be presented to the BOS and the reservations re: site selection. Additionally, requesting COA Director and two members of the Board (instead of one) be appointed to the Public Building Committee with voting privileges in order to remain involved in the process, though Linda indicated she had checked with LD at BOS office and was told that was not supported in the by-laws. Gordon went on to say that he feels that any proposal on the old Gates property will force the BOS to decide what they are doing with the property. Letter will be discussed at future meeting after Linda offered to type and distribute for further consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm

Submitted by Janice Lindblom

