

Council On Aging, Board of Directors, January 11, 2012

Scituate Council On Aging

Board of Directors Meeting

January 11, 2012

Attendees: Pam Davis-Chairman, Florence Choate-Director, Dale Balog, Jim Harmon, Gerard Fierimonte, Joan Powers, Richard Mitchell, Audrey Reidy, John Danehey, BOS Liaison

Guest: Ellen Bernardi

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

2. Vote To Accept Minutes of December, 2011 Meeting:

--Accepted with one correction to the time of adjournment (6:55 PM)

Staff and Director Reports:

Director:

--December was busy until Christmas week when things slowed down a bit. Our vans were especially busy transporting seniors to the Annual Policemen's Luncheon, St. Luke's dinner, Congregational luncheon, the Christmas luncheon at the Senior Center, Christmas lights Tour and our usual activities, classes and workshops.

--We submitted our budget to the Town Administrator whose recommendation for 2013 was to cut \$5100.00. The Director would rather give back than overspend. Ms Reidy asked if our Newsletter could be done every month rather than every other, giving seniors a project, which they love. We will consider our postage budget to see if this is possible.

--We are receiving donations for heating assistance, but the demand outweighs the funds as government funded fuel assistance has been cut by 33%.

--We are looking forward to the delivery of our new van. It has 12 seats, room and securement for 2 wheelchairs. A Federal grant will pay for 80% of the van, the COA will pay 10% and the Town has promised to pay 10%.

--Our seniors' needs simply grow and grow and we try to keep an eye on the future. Seniors need to let ALL of us know that they are here. The Town census shows us that the senior population grew by 600+ from last year. Our focus now is teaching them Health and Wellness.

Programming

Though it's difficult to run the Center without a volunteer Programming Coordinator, we are holding our own. In December we hosted the Scituate Garden Club for Christmas arrangements, our van ran a "Christmas Lights Tour", we ran a Relaxation Through Hypnosis" for seniors and same for Caregivers. Of course the Newsletter folding and mailing took place with 2700 pieces taken to the Post Office. Upon discussion, the Director will look into sending our Newsletter out on a monthly basis. Postage costs are a concern. We will be hosting a series of Health and Wellness workshops beginning February 6, 2012. The Norwell VNA and Hospice Association will facilitate. The venue is the Scituate Harbor Community Building.

Outreach

-- Home visits 1, Office visits 21, meetings attended 0, telephone calls 58, referrals made 29, duplicated numbers 94 and unduplicated 56. Outreach has busy assisting seniors with Medicare enrollment. Fuel Assistance Applications are still being taken. Our SHINE program is as busy as ever.

Transportation

--Daily (Scituate) van rides 564, LINK 79, Volunteer 8, TOTAL RIDES 651. Our Volunteers donated 54 hours driving seniors to their medical appointments and 9 hours escorting seniors to same. Our vans drove a total of 1450 miles.

Old Business— GATRA has approved our application and the vote will be with the Board of Selectmen on Jan. 17, 2012. This was the result of a meeting with the Town Administrator, the COA Director and Frank Gay of GATRA. Following Selectmen approval, it will have to be approved at Town Meeting in the Spring. We hope that GATRA bus service will be available in Scituate on July, 1, 2012. This will serve all age groups, able and disabled, in Town and hopefully, out of Town. It will be a great ride to shopping, appointments, home from the train, etc.

5. New Business

SSES Update by Joan Powers—SSES is looking for a Nursing Supervisor.

Also, they have a program for volunteers to work with nursing and rest homes. It requires a three day State training program. At present, there are 500 volunteers in the state of Massachusetts. They are working with 25 nursing homes and 4 rest homes.

Commission on Disabilities by Jerry Fiermonte—Jerry attended a meeting on December 13, 2011. There was a BIG problem on accessing the beaches in the winter month. One in Humarock is now accessible and one in Scituate. The next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 19, 2012.

Ellen Bernardi was present to determine the responsibilities and actions of the Board. She was a great assistance in organizing the Craft Show. She will be working with the Director in enriching our programming schedule.

6. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted

Quincie-Ann Cutler

ADDENDUM TO COA BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2012

Agenda and minutes of the December meeting are available at the Town Clerk's office.

Staff and director reports are available at the COA building, 27 Brook St., Scituate.