

Council on Aging, Board of Directors, May 9, 2012

Scituate Council on Aging

Board of Directors Meeting

May 9, 2012

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

Meeting called to order at 6:05 PM

2. Vote To Accept Minutes of April, 2012 Meeting:

--With addenda: Accepted unanimously

Staff and Director Reports:

Director:

--All three of our Health and Wellness workshops at SHCB have been completed. They were facilitated by the Norwell VNA and paid for with a grant. The attendance was high. We were pleased. The SHCB is a great venue. The next workshop, "The Right Move," is scheduled there on May 15. It is a co-production with Edward Jones and Sotheby's Real Estate. It will be a panel discussion for seniors in regard to selling vs. keeping their homes. We have made all corrections to our survey and they will be going out very soon. One third will be hand-outs, two thirds mailed. We have enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelopes. Based on our statistical calculations, 860 will go out; i.e. 20% of Scituate's population. The results will guide the COA in reading demonstrated needs of our seniors.

--April was busy with our SHINE volunteer and our Elder Layer volunteer. Our new van is in full operation and the seniors love it. It's larger and easier for the seniors to board, etc. The arrangements are in place for the Volunteer Luncheon. We are working with our new Veteran's Agent, Donald Knapp. He spoke at the men's breakfast and they liked him very much. We continue to sell the lovely bookmarks made by our art class. We laminate them for longevity.

--We expect a final GATRA up date in May.

Outreach

--Home visits 4, Office visits 22, meetings attended 2, telephone calls 39, referrals made 26, duplicated numbers 73 and unduplicated 32. Our Outreach Dept. attended a meeting explaining health insurance changes and financial qualifications for various programs. Nancy and Jenny found this helpful in assessing clients. Don Knapp hosted a Veteran's Outreach Day that Nancy and Jenny attended. It was a great opportunity for Scituate veterans to gather, meet Don and have questions answered. Nancy and Jenny

are grateful to have a good working relationship with Don and his assistant, Chris Chessia. The Director is very proud of our Outreach Department's hard work.

Transportation

--Daily (Scituate) van rides 415, LINK 61, Volunteer 17, Total Rides, 493. Our Volunteers donated 47 hours driving seniors to their medical appointments and 4 hours escorting seniors to same. Our vans drove a total of 1230 miles.

Old Business

Scituate was voted in at the GATRA Board meeting. We will soon meet with them to sign a contract. Service will most likely start in July, the beginning of the new fiscal year's funding. Seniors and disabled will be at the front of the line. After that we hope to make the general public aware of the service via news media such as Mariner, Ledger, links to businesses, the Chamber of Commerce, churches, etc. as suggested by Mr. Danehey. Mrs. Reidy has had several inquiries about GATRA, indicative of the fact the the public is hearing

about it and welcome the serve. Over time, we will increase our services as needed. The Director commented that we are lucky to be a member of GATRA as they are reorganizing to include the entire South Shore.

Volunteer Luncheon.—The Volunteer Luncheon on May 2nd was a huge success. It was held at the Maritime Center. The Director said that it couldn't fail with the great group of people attending and the beautiful venue. The Chef's Table out of Pembroke prepared a fabulous lunch, provided impeccable service. We are all so lucky to have our volunteers who ask for nothing and do so much.

5. New Business-

A. Some of the Town's seniors visited the Selectmen's meeting on May 8 during the "walk-in" period. Their purpose was to emphasize the senior population's need and desire for a new Senior Center. Mr. Danehy said it was a very good discussion. Mrs. Reidy was proud of the seniors, saying they all have a great need to talk about it. They made a statement that they are digging in. "We will not settle for "Pier 44. Give us what we want." The Town Administrator told them that they can use SHCB any time, just fill out paperwork. In fact, there are several buildings in town that have available space for activities. Mrs. Reidy did not like the fact that the seniors are being shifted around.

The Director, at this Board meeting said that even younger folks are in favor of a new COA building. They spoke with her, wrote letters and distributed them around town. This is an improvement over seniors not speaking up for themselves.

Mr. Danehey stated that the meeting with the seniors attending was a great discussion and that nobody should be discouraged. Just from the showing as walk-ins, more people will become involved. We need to start with a short term plan and eventually morph that into a long term plan. With this strategy, nothing is wasted. If option 1 fails then ALL is not lost. Pick up at short term and redevelop. This way time and work are not wasted and we simply move on. For example, if we start with short term plan overall, then move to long term on the Gates school and that does not work out, we move to the development of the Driftway parcel. The Board Chair reiterated that we must keep working in small groups with the Affordable Housing Trust and the Housing Authority. Mr. Mitchell asked if we had met with these groups yet. Pam said not yet but will get in touch with Pat Butler and set up a meeting re the property swap.

Mrs. Powers questioned the longevity of ANY plan for a new Senior Center as we cannot stay at Brook St. for 5-10 more years. Mrs. Reidy stated that we have been in the Brook Street location for thirty (30) years. MS Stillman advised that the Gates option would probably happen sooner as it is not funded by the government. The Director commented that we should attach a health clinic to the Senior Center. They are doing it in California and it takes care of a lot of the funding. The Director strongly said that the Community should support a new Senior Center. When MS Stillman said that the Community DOES support it, the Director said that the 2007 override, the COA Board was told that to have a new Senior Center, they have to have a Community Center. When folks went to the polls, they had no idea what they were voting for. MS Stillman said that The Director has more support than she thinks. Mrs. Powers aid that we should go for one package deal which Mrs. Reidy said it may be paid for by an override. Mr. Mitchell suggested we choose a smaller group and study our options. The Chairperson said that we will get in touch with Affordable Housing Trust to discuss the parcel on the Driftway for senior housing with a COA attached. Mr. Mitchell, whose background is the healthcare industry, said that, "You'll never see it."

As far as the Gates group discussions, MS Stillman said that they are not being well attended and that we need to become involved. Mr. Harmon suggestion that we talk about our options at the next meeting. All agreed.

6. Reports

SSES Update by Joan Powers—SSES conducted a survey on their Meals on Wheels program. 90% of subscribers are happy with the program. SSES is working on home care reform with the area hospitals, i.e. help to make going home from hospital of rehab (nursing home) more doable and more comfortable. They are training Mass. Health with like procedures. June 14 is the dated of the SSES Volunteer Appreciation Day. It will be held in Randolph. SSES is looking for a Chairman as the current job holder has resigned. The SSES annual picnic will be on June 6 in Hull. The Scituate COA will be running a van. The theme is Red Sox in celebration of their 100th tear. Please wear your BOSOX gear!

Commission on Disabilities Report by Gerard Fierimonte—The Commission on Disabilities will be meeting with GATRA on June 1. They plan to increase their Board membership by 3; from 6 to 9. Also, the beaches will be accessible for disabled.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Quincie-Ann Cutler

ADDENDUM TO COA BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING MINUTES
OF 5-9-2012

Agenda and COA Board meeting minutes of April 11th are available at the Town Clerk's office

Staff and Director Reports are available at the COA, 27 Brook St.