

Scituate Council on Aging  
November 9, 2017  
Scituate Senior Center

Present: JD Miller, Chairman; Lucille Sorrentino, Janice Desmond, Janice Lindblom, Helen Jablonski, Leslie James, Henry Yeh Board Members; John Danehey, BOS Liaison; Bette Johnson, FOSS Liaison; Linda Hayes, COA Director.

Not-Present: Caitlin Coyle; SSES Liaison Joan Powers

Meeting called to order at 5:30pm

Mr. Danehey gave an update on happenings in the town. The new TA, Jim Beaudreau, starts 1/3/17. He will be in Town Hall some dates in December. Due to Patricia Vinchesi's unexpected resignation, projects that the BOS has been working on have been delayed 8-9 months, i.e. Requests for Services. The first issue for the BOS will be prepping for the budget and Town Meeting. The goal for the BOS is to have the Senior Center on the ballot in May after April Town meeting. If not, a STM may be needed. In order for an override to pass, all questions need to be answered. The first step is to have the OPM for the project go out to bid. The BOS will need to know what the COA needs in a structure. The OPM will work up a design. A new Senior Center is a priority for the BOS. Loss of the field may become an issue but the priority remains a new center. The town cannot rely on grants or other funding. The reality is that an override will be required to build a new center. JD asked if other projects that have been or will be completed mean less debt to the town and should we explore that option of a talking point. John agreed that one of the topics to be discussed to the voters is the lessening of debt. Other topics to be discussed will be Old Gates, Fields and Pier 44. John agrees that the "white elephant" is old Gates. He reiterated that all members of the BOS are behind a new senior center. Henry and Janice L asked if there could be answers to the questions people may ask re: loss of a field or replacement of the one that may be lost. JD reiterated that the COA can help with programs in a new Senior Center but getting the project passed and built is something that the COA wants to be involved in.

SSES Liaison Report: (Presented by JD on behalf of Joan Powers)

- Community Dinner at St. Luke's will be November 26 and no dinner in December.

FOSS Liaison Report:

- 415 members in FOSS
- Successful Trivia night
- December 2 is the Christmas Fair at St. Mary's
- Concerns of FOSS on decision on Senior Center site. Bette read a statement on behalf of FOSS and members of the community who reached out to her.

Minutes of October were approved as amended.

### Director's Report:

- Three staff members attended the MCOA conference which they were not able to do in the past.
- 77 people attended the health fair which was less than last year. There were complaints about parking and having to walk. Tote bags were handed out.
- Taped two segments of Seniorities with JD
- Received her budget assignment.
- Linda met with MAPC for discussion regarding a vulnerability plan for the Town and including senior concerns. Attendees were interviewed and asked what the impacts would be on the community. Linda was asked about the impact on seniors in the community when it came to disasters/weather.
- Met with a graphic artist who is familiar with Scituate and discussed possible logos for the Senior Center. Linda gave her background on what the Senior Center is all about. This is the 2nd graphic artist Linda has worked with.
- The artist of the month is Betty Tufankjian and some of her art work is hanging in the Senior Center. She is part of the art class run by Joanne Papandrea.
- A member of the community treated the staff to lunch. Food was from Maria's and it was for the staff meeting.
- Karen Canfield attended the men's breakfast. Next month SPD Chief Stewart will attend.
- The Halloween party in conjunction with the Magical Moon Foundation did not have as many seniors in attendance as hoped for. It was beautiful and a lot of effort went into preparation. If it had been in the newsletter maybe more seniors would have been able to attend. Donna Green of the MMF is looking to do more with the COA.
- Instructor fees were reviewed. There is less grant money available for programs and some instructors need a guaranteed amount before they agree to a class. Linda was able to cover some costs through the Formula Grant in past years, but that is not possible this fiscal year due to other expenses. Linda wants to make programming consistent and fair for all the instructors. Meditation will no longer be available due to the instructor fee not being met. Instructors set the rate and sometimes Linda is able to negotiate a lower rate. She will be brainstorming with staff for ideas. Also affecting participation in classes can be location and/or room size and parking, though the SHCB is accommodating the nearly 25 seniors regularly for an exercise class 3x/week. The Formula Grant came up short and Linda had to cut a lot. Funding from our Programs Revolving Fund (largely from past donations) is being used to subsidize programming costs as well as the new phone system. The COA is not getting the donations that they have in the past and may need to solicit, which we have not been doing in earnest through the newsletter.
- The Legislative Breakfast is November 17 at the Marshfield COA. Linda distributed the agenda. State Reps and Senators will be in attendance. Each COA involved contributes. Leslie James and Henry Yeh indicated that they would like to attend.

- Intergenerational Pickleball will be next Friday 11/17. Initiated by the high school and will take place during the PE class. The students will play 20 seniors at 1:30pm.
- Policeman's Christmas luncheon will be December 9. RSVP is required and transportation will be provided.
- Holiday Party for seniors will be December 19 with entertainment on piano provided by Linda Chuckran. Donations from local restaurants will be solicited.
- Campaign and branding. Spreading the word on programs, i.e. pop-up Kindness Rocks. COA representation wherever possible—St. Patrick's Day Parade float; 5K in the future. Linda needs to get better at social media even if seniors are not using it.
- Reports for Activities, Transportation, Social Services and Outreach
  - Activities: total event sign-ups was over 1200 (duplicated) and last year was 800 for October. Recreation and Exercise are always the biggest numbers. Actual numbers may be bigger.
  - Transportation: Numbers are also up. Medical out-of-town remains the largest number of participants. Shopping is popular too.
  - Social Services: July/August/September. Ongoing counseling. Financial needs can be met via the clergy group and network of other resources. HRT meeting was postponed. Caregiver support meets at the center.
  - Outreach Report is not as comprehensive and she will discuss her report at the next meeting. She has started to assist seniors with fuel assistance. Housing assistance is addressed. Medicaid and Medicare. Open enrollment for Medicare was taped at the center and is available on youtube.
- Old Business: Sub-Committee plans were discussed as well as confirming details with Mr. Danehey re: Senior Center. Future dates for sub-committee meetings proposed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:06

Submitted by Janice Lindblom