

Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, October 11, 2018

Call to order – 5:35pm. Attendance: Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Gordon Price, Vice-Chair, Henry Yeh, Leslie James, Helen Jablonski, Janice Lindblom, Lucille Sorrentino and Janice Desmond, Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director, Jill Johnston, COA Admin Assistant, Elaine Shembari, Liaison to FOSS and Joan Powers, Liaison to South Shore Elder Services PRESENT. Caitlin Coyle, Board Member was absent.

The minutes for the September 2018 meeting were accepted by the Board.

Linda's Report:

- Senior Center project update – Steve Kirby was on the agenda to speak to the Board tonight but had a conflict. Another time will be scheduled. Joel Bargman, the architect for the new Senior Center stopped in to the Senior Center to see Linda for some additional building clarifications this past Friday.
- The Building Commission meeting was held on 9/25/18 to present the initial design of the new Senior Center building. There were some questions of where the main entrance would be placed and its accessibility to the parking area. There is some concern with keeping the existing façade of the building but the Commission decided to go with a side entrance to allow for accessibility to the main parking. There will be additional parking in back which can also be used and will be connected to the main parking lot. Some choices and decisions were discussed about location of activity room, inclusion of a shower so space can be used as a shelter location, the location of offices and the inclusion of a generator. 10/23/18 will be the next scheduled meeting. More design discussions will be held. Public forums for further design discussions will likely take place in December.
- A new fence was installed alongside the existing Senior Center's side yard.
- New programs kicked off in September. The 50+ job seekers group is now located at the town Library. Jenny Gerbis, the Senior Center's Outreach worker is the co-facilitator and it is held on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. There were at least 10+ attendees at the September meetings. Nordic Pole walking has been a popular group. Approximately 25 people have been trained. This program is financed with a grant. A regular walking group may be formed. The memory training class finished a 4 week session. Another session is to begin on 11/18/18. Up to 15 participants can join in. A Schedule D Medicare presentation is to be held at the Senior Center at 1PM on 11/30/18. A 'Coffee with the Cops' session is being scheduled for November. This will be planned with Brad Stenbeck, the Senior Resource Officer from the Police Department. He will bring in the traffic officer for this event to discuss traffic and safety in Scituate. Also an Emergency Winter Storm preparation session is being planned soon.
- The Age-Friendly Community event – 'Family Fun Walk' was held in October. There were 42 walkers plus volunteers at the event. T-shirts were made for the event. There were some purchases and some donations. Lawn signs used were useful to get people there. It was a break-even event which is good for the initial year. Linda plans to schedule this again next year.
- The Navy Band has confirmed for the Veterans Day event to be held on Thursday, 11/8/18. Transportation is to be provided. Timing of event is still under discussion. Tickets will be printed to keep account of attendance but event will be free of charge. This is a 30 member band. A meeting will be held at the Senior Center on Friday, 10/12/18 at 3:30pm to discuss

planning for the event. This event is the same night as the next scheduled Board meeting, so more to come on re-scheduling.

- Some discussion took place of moving the next scheduled COA Board Meeting to be held in advance of the Navy Band event, which is scheduled on the same night as the next scheduled Board Meeting. Moving timing of Board meeting will be determined once timing of Navy Band event is resolved.
- Transportation is going very well under new director, Kathy Clarkeson. Vans have had some maintenance and have been cleaned.
- Outreach services were reviewed. Jenny Gerbis is now working full time in her role. She met with 40 seniors in September. More outreach, to try to reach veterans will be attempted.
- Tai Chi classes will be starting up again. A 24 week session just concluded. The Balance class is popular.

Karen Canfield, Board of Selectmen liaison was not in attendance at this meeting.

Joan Powers – South Shore Elder Services update:

- Recent meeting was held and finances were reviewed as well as training which can now be updated online.
- Norwell has new senior housing – 20 units available.
- Changes in Staff Management – the agency is expanding and have more than 100 staff. Additional work being done with Veterans.
- Boston Globe's recent article on abuse of client by their home care aides was responded to by South Shore Elder Services. They believe that this type of situation reflects a minority of aides and that most are extremely professional.
- Meals on Wheels in Scituate is in need of more volunteers. There are a number of senior volunteers who are drivers who go to Florida for the winter, which presents a void of volunteers. New volunteers must go through South Shore Elder Volunteers to work at the Scituate Meals on Wheels. JD Miller recommended that the Town of Scituate offer the tax work-off benefit to volunteers at the Scituate Meals on Wheels. Gordon Price suggested an article be done in the Mariner to bring awareness to this need. More to come on this.
- The St. Luke's monthly dinner to be held on Sunday, 10/28/18 at 5PM and will be sponsored by the Rotary.

Elaine Shembari – FOSS update:

- The Fashion Show went well and had a record number of attendees, more than 100 people. All liked the clothing modeled. The meal had to be catered due to limitations with St. Mary's food permit.
- Trivia Night is scheduled for Friday, 10/19/18 from 6-9PM with dinner and a cash bar at St. Mary's hall. Tickets are selling well.
- The Christmas Fair is scheduled for 12/1/18 from 9am-2pm at St. Mary's hall.

Update on Age-Friendly Initiative:

- There has been discussion of how to move this forward. Some of the Board Members and Linda Hayes have been working on forming a steering committee of 10-11 people from the community to include Mark Fenton, Joan Meschino, Gigi Mirarchi and Kevin Cafferty, from the DPW. Caitlin Coyle will be the Council on Aging liaison. The Board will be updated monthly.
- Steering committee is to look at where to focus their efforts. A high school student would also sit on the steering committee.
- There has been thought given to bike kiosks.

Old Business:

- The amended By-Laws were presented at the September meeting by Janice Desmond. A formal vote was conducted and the amended By-Laws were approved by the Council on Aging Board. A presentation to the full Board of Selectman will be made at an upcoming BOS meeting to get their approval.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:45PM.