

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting  
January 14 @ 5:30 p.m.  
Scituate Senior Center, Scituate, MA

Chairman Gordon Price called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm. Present were Audrey Reidy, Vice-Chairperson, John Miller, Lucille Sorrentino, Janice Lindblom, Linda Hayes, COA Director and guest staff person Jenny Gerbis.

Absent: Dale Balog, Mary O'Toole, Pat Conway, Beth McCabe

COA Director Hayes introduced Elaine Schembari, Scituate Commission on Disabilities Liaison, to the Board.

Minutes of the December meeting were approved by the Board. Audrey Reidy stated she was glad to read that the land to be used for additional senior housing at the rear of Central Park was not the land set aside for a senior center.

Linda Hayes introduced Jenny Gerbis, Outreach Coordinator for the COA, to the members. Linda presented the Director's Report for 1/14/2016. The AMP ended on 12/16 with 20 of original 27 participants completing the program. The Council hopes to run the program again next year but may need to find funding other than the MCOA. Total cost was approximately \$1600. Also discussed were the Christmas luncheon (12/22), Emergency Preparedness Home Fire Safety Assessment, Senior Tax Work-off program and staff trainings (Nutrition and Healthy eating, Matter of Balance, Chronic Disease self-management/pain self-management, RMV online transactions). The COA staff went on a retreat to the Maritime center on 12/28. COA is waiting for the 14-passenger van from GATRA. Delivery is expected the week of January 19. Linda received a call from Al Bangert from the Adaptive Building Re-use Committee re: contract awarded for study of COA, Rec., and town hall needs. Linda also met with SHS Rotarians/Interact Club. March 28th 4:30-6:30, at the senior center, is date for Dinner/Game night with students and seniors. The student members are also available for Tech Time technology device training 3-4pm, 2nd Wednesday of March, April and May as well as other activities. FY17 to be presented to the Advisory Board and the BOS in February.

Transportation, Social Services, Outreach and Activities/Volunteer reports were submitted to the Board. Men's Breakfast is being postponed until March as well as Classical music class. Policies and regulations for transportation were made available to the Board.

Jenny Gerbis talked about what she does for the COA. Right now she is getting a lot of calls for fuel assistance. The Good Neighbor Energy Fund has a \$300 benefit for those seniors who are over income. The money is a direct credit to the account. Jenny encourages seniors to sign up for SNAP food stamps. Out of pocket medical expenses brings the income down and more eligible for benefits. Jenny also assists with billing issues for clients. Jenny and Laura Minier are compiling a list of seniors that may need to be checked on during disasters i.e. winter storms. 25 people have responded this year to be on the list.

Joan Powers gave the report from SSES. Meeting held on the first Tuesday with Secretary of Elder Affairs Elaine Bonner. Legislative Breakfast held on January 8th with Senators and Representatives. Staff of SSES are seeing more clients and are receiving more training to work with adults with Developmental Disabilities. More workers are needed. Report from MassHomeCare budget. Income eligibility was raised to 300% of poverty level or \$35,000.

Health benefits of staff of SSES was discussed. Linda Hayes asked if the Executive Director of SSES, Sandra Lindsey, would like to come to a COA board meeting.

Bette Johnson gave the report from FOSS. The Friends are working on the golf tournament in June and looking for sponsors. The tournament is on June 17th. Starting on 1/18 crafters and the FOSS will be meeting at the Methodist Church once a month to work on crafts for fairs and planning fairs. St. Lukes dinner is 1/24.

Chairman Price presented the report on the Adaptive Building Re-Use Comm. Two firms were interviewed to look at space needs of Town Hall, Rec, Seniors and Scituate School Administration. Durkee-Brown was awarded the contract for the study. Gates will be looked at as a possible site but not the only site. Sterling Management was the other firm but the committee felt that Durkee-Brown was more qualified. The TA was notified of the decision and the committee will go in front of the BOS on 1/20. A presentation on what the purpose of the committee will be on 2/6 at SHS library @ 10:00am. It is open to the public to inform and to invite suggestions. Arrangements are trying to be made to have the presentation taped for SCTV. Lucille inquired as to when the meetings are held in order to attend future meetings.

Under "Old Business" Chairman Price talked about the Senior Center having more publicity/visibility in the community, especially the services provided, in 2016 to help with a new facility. Lucille Sorrentino mentioned working with the editor and reporter of the Mariner with visibility. Linda Hayes brought up an "Event Committee" to help with events i.e. fundraiser, social events, community awareness. Linda also mentioned the documentary "The Age of Love" which will be shown at the Mill Wharf Cinema on a First Friday with refreshments after. Four weeks later will be an actual speed dating event. Audrey Reidy suggested it be held in the spring to avoid winter weather. Janice Lindblom and Chairman Price volunteered to help with the events committee. Dale Balog has already said she would help out.

Elaine Schembari spoke about the Commission on Disabilities. It is a four person commission that is "getting back to monthly meetings" and advising the town on compliance. All new construction plans should be shown to the Commission to ensure that they are in compliance.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:50pm.

Submitted by Janice Lindblom