

Scituate Council on Aging

Board of Directors Meeting on
February 18, 2016 @5:00pm

Scituate Town Hall, Selectmen's Hearing Room

Acting Chair John Miller called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. Present at the meeting were Linda Hayes-COA Director, Laura Minier-Manager of Social Services and guest staff person from COA, Marty O'Toole-Selectman Liaison, Dale Balog, John Miller, Ruth Thompson-Scituate Mariner, Lucille Sorrentino, Janice Lindblom, and Elaine Schembari-Disabilities Commission Liaison.

Absent: Chairperson-Gordon Price, Vice-Chairperson Audrey Reidy, Pat Conway

Laura Minier presented January report (previous 3 months). She then discussed what her role is at the COA and how referrals come to her. Clients are identified through Fire or Police departments. Clients are also referred by Jenny Gerbis, Outreach Coordinator for COA. Clients require many visits and follow-up. January saw 23 clients, including seniors age 55+. Earlier intervention provides better outcomes. Clients can be elders at risk, homeless, mentally ill or required assistance with emergency preparedness or food assistance, transportation etc. Laura also coordinates caregiver support group. Laura partnered with the SFD and Red Cross for safety inspections. Coffee Talk is included, but only had one attendee this month. Laura maintains the storm call list which is used in the event of an emergency. A call is placed to check on the safety of those individuals who requested the service. The Friendly Visitor program will be started again with the cooperation of Lisa Thornton, Activities Coordinator. It will be modeled after the FV program already in place and provided by SSES. Elaine Schembari gave Laura the name of a non-member of the Comm. on Disabilities who can assist with MassHealth applications.

Minutes from January 14 were accepted with correction and edit.

Linda Hayes presented the Director's report for January/February. The COA continues to work on the Emergency Preparedness Home Fire Safety Assessments. The Senior Tax Work-off Program had a couple of additional applicants. The Interact Club Game night will be held March 28. Tech Time, also with the Interact Club, will be 3:00-4:00 on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. The Scituate Hoarding Response Team was debriefed following the house fire. A community event is being planned for May. Q Cutler and Linda attended a workshop on how to deal with difficult clients. The RMV On-line training was at the PCOA on 1/20/16, which Linda attended. This service will be available to seniors first, but may be opened to more ages later. Those over age 75 need to go to and RMV office for the eye exam for renewal of licenses.

Hours TBD. Material for on-site use being developed. The new 14-person van from GATRA was delivered on 1/27. Linda is working on a new brochure with Q and GATRA. Updated driver training, medical card physicals, and random drug/alcohol testing protocols are all regulated and required. There will be an audit on 2/25. Linda met with the Advisory Committee on 2/4 for review of budget and then with the BOS on 2/16 for review. Linda distributed a copy of the budget to the board members and liaisons. The budget is level funded and some items have been moved to other accounts, i.e. Transportation/GATRA-funded payments, postage, and Laura's salary which is shared at 40% from the COA budget and 60% from the Health Dept. Donations and programming are in separate but ongoing revolving accounts. Another part-time driver is being considered. Linda received a letter of resignation from Board Member Beth McCabe. A new liaison may be needed for the Comm. on Disabilities. Dale Balog asked if the Board could fill her position now rather than wait for the Selectman. Selectman O'Toole explained that the person would have to be reappointed in three months. Department goals were read and will be forwarded to board members.

Transportation and Activities reports were distributed to the Board and liaisons.

Ruth Thompson was introduced as guest of the Board. Invitation was extended to Ruth to share what the Board does and what she would suggest to increase visibility on what the COA does and programs available to seniors in town. Linda asked the best way to present articles to the Mariner for publication. Linda mentioned "The Age of Love" movie being screened at the Mill Wharf Cinema on April 1 at 3:00-4:30 pm. This movie is free to the public and is on a "First Friday". To follow-up the movie a speed dating event will be held at a later date. Ruth requested that the Mariner be given two weeks notice for any articles for publication and accompany with a photo. Ruth may do a "Q&A" with Laura to show the readers what she does for the town. Lucille Sorrentino spoke of Steve Certa who will be speaking at the COA on March 16 @ 10:00 am to discuss his mission trips to Guatemala through the Rotary Club. Dale Balog suggested to interview seniors who are members of the COA who have interesting stories to tell.

Liaison Updates:

SSES: Joan Powers informed the board that SSES had a legislative breakfast which was partnered with Wellspring and was very successful. SSES is looking for drivers for MOW and continues to work on storm preparation. The Governor's budget was reviewed. Unlike previous years, this year the Governor has not recommended any budget cuts. 45,000 seniors use home care services. Protective Services received a \$4.97million increase. Title III of Older American Act provides federal funds for isolated and disadvantaged elders. All elders over age 60 benefit. Board training was on AAA and what they do i.e. conduct focus groups to determine needs of elders and their caregivers. Sunday, February 28 is the monthly community dinner at St. Lukes.

Disabilities Commission: Elaine reported that the Commission's role can be found on the town website. (<http://www.scituate.ma.gov/commission-on-disabilities>). Elaine and the Chairperson John McLaughlin offered assistance with the cost of testing drivers that need to drive the GATRA bus. Linda also stated that money may be earmarked for the COA if needed.

FOSS: Events Co-Chair Carol King presented that on April 2nd from 3:00-5:00 there will be a talk at Lawson Tower. Details are not finalized. Linda Hayes asked what the objective of the event would be. Carol replied that it will be a fundraiser and baked goods will be sold. Linda also asked if the COA could offer help/space in anyway. The presentation will be held at Lawson Tower. Carol added that the speaker requires a screen and wifi and the talk may be moved to the GAR hall.

SABRC: Board members discussed presentation held the previous Thursday and on February 6. Both presentations were well attended and received by the public.

Motion was presented to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm

Submitted by

Janice Lindblom, *Acting Secretary in absence of Pat Conway*