

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Director's Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2014

Attendees: Joan Powers- chairman, Debby Young, Dale Balog, Richard Mitchell, Laura Minier-Human Services Mgr., Linda Hayes-COA Director, Marty O'Toole- Selectmen's Liaison.

Minutes will be approved at the next meeting.

Staff and Director Reports: Ms. Hayes and Ms. Minier attended a virtual Dementia Tour which simulated the challenges and difficulty dementia patients have to deal with on a daily basis. It was very interesting. Ms. Hayes and Ms. Gerbis attended presentation on BenefitsCheckup.org designed to screen clients eligibility for financial aid and resources available. The new monthly article for the Scituate Mariner by Ms. Hayes will be titled *Maturity Matters*. Exercise classes and leisure activities are still well attended. The *Scituate Maps* series is well attended and runs thru may 14th. The new *Coastal Field Trip* walking course has 20 participants and the COA hopes to expand it into becoming a regular field trip program. Joby Norton spoke at the men's breakfast about the fishing industry and his business. Upcoming events include a presentation on the *Etrusco Foundation, Maintaining Your Brain*, a program on the research done by the *Stellwagon Bank National Marine Sanctuary* in Scituate, and a presentation on the *Elephant Sanctuary* in Tennessee for aging elephants. New activities/programs include a free hearing clinic and possibly a monthly dental clinic. Ms. Hayes is hoping to have a ballroom dancing class in the near future.

Social Services report: 8 home visits, 28 office consults, 59 telephone consults, 43 applications for assistance, 3 meetings attended, duplicated numbers were 100, and unduplicated numbers were 50. The staff meets weekly with Social Services Mgr. Laura Minier as well as a monthly meeting that includes the COA Director.

Transportation report for March- Daily rides were 472, LINK rides were 62, no MAP rides, and 2 volunteer rides. Van miles driven were 1198.

Laura Minier, Human Services Mgr., outlined her plans for the upcoming year. They include reaching out to Seniors who aren't in touch with the COA and perhaps living alone, maintaining present resources and contacts, and expanding senior services with the Preparedness program, the Sands organization and the Fire and Health departments. The police department has appointed a social services officer to assist when necessary. Debby Young asked if they were in touch with the Housing Authority to perhaps learn of seniors who were in need of services. Marty O'Toole asked that a list of seniors be maintained and that is covered by the Preparedness Program. There is a new dog therapy program starting also.

Joan Powers reported on the SSES meeting. They are offering a caregivers support group and anyone can contact South Shore Elder Services in Braintree for additional information.

Linda Hayes discussed the shortage of COA board members. They are in need of a board member liaison for Commission on Disabilities. She is hoping board members will become more involved in community partnerships.

Richard Mitchell asked if the Master Plan committee was still meeting. It is not meeting on the same schedule and is waiting for the school report.

JoAnn Ball discussed the article on the town warrant regarding the vote to approve funds for the hiring of someone to do a needs assessment study of the senior population in Scituate. They are asking for \$25K, and a little over \$19K is available in the COA budget from a previous feasibility study. The Town Administrator has assured the Friends of Scituate Seniors group that if the article passes the job will be put out to bid right after the first of July. The assessment is expected to be done thru a mailed survey, and the Friends group has volunteered to help pay postage if it can't be covered by the appropriation. The survey will be for citizens who are 55 and over.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

PR Davis

ADDENDUM TO THE SCOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF 4/10/14

Staff and director reports are available at the COA, 27 Brook St., Scituate

Agenda is available at the Town Hall.