

Scituate Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting on
May 12, 2016 @ 5:30
At the Scituate Senior Center

Present were Gordon Price, Dale Balog, John Miller, Pat Conway, Janice Lindblom, Lucille Sorrentino, COA Director, Linda Hayes, Activities Director, Lisa Thornton, South Shore Elder Services Liaison, Joan Power and Commission on Disabilities Liaison, Elaine Schembari

Absent were Audrey Reidy, Board of Selectman Liaison, Marty O'Toole

Gordon Price, Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:33. Introductions were made and the Mission statement was read by Dr. Price.

Minutes of the April 14 meeting were accepted.

Linda Hayes gave her Director's report which was distributed to the board. The Scituate Hoarding Response Team community education event on Saturday April 30 was a great success. The forty people that attended were mostly there for resources. There was a great response from the town people directly involved in this issue. Other highlights of her report were that she had met with FOSS members to determine more opportunities for a positive working relationship. She has spent many working hours on transportation and the significant documentation for van drivers working for COA. Lisa and Laura are currently working on developing the Friendly Visitor Program. Six volunteers have expressed interest and there are several seniors that would appreciate that service. The Health Fair was a great success as was the Speed Dating event. Eleven of the fourteen participants have numbers to call.

Lisa Thornton, visiting staff person, gave her report which included discussion on the upcoming "Live Your Life Well" program on June 8. There will be ten different topics and ten groups of participant. Each presenter will spend time with each small group. The program originated on the Cape and is funded by a grant. Lunch will be included. Sample topics are: Being creative, Helping others, Dealing with hard times etc. She also mentioned that the Museum of Fine Arts trip was a success. Another highlight of the monthly activities was that some "Matter of Balance" participants have transitioned to the "Balance for Life" classes which is the newest fitness offering at the Center. Also, big news, six of our Pickle Ball players are going to the Senior Olympics in Quincy!!!

South Shore Elder Services Liaison report by Joan Power: Fr. Bill's stated that the senior homeless population is up 7 percent. Joan presented pictures of veteran posters that are on the walls of the Elder Services offices. They are movable panels and very striking. Elder Services has published a resource booklet for seniors. 7,000 copies have been printed. They are also distributing information on the importance of having a health care proxy, particularly the importance of having someone you trust make decisions for you. She told the story of a Scituate senior that was moved to Texas away from all her support because she had the wrong person making her decisions. The monthly Rotary dinner is on May 22. It will be a turkey dinner. Rotary, which meets on Wed from 6-8 will be honoring veterans at their next meeting. Ron Wheatley will be the speaker and he will be discussing his book.

Commission on Disabilities Liaison report by Elaine Schembari: She has been looking at the Scituate playgrounds to make sure they are handicap assessable. She is going to get her certification so that she can do actual evaluations.

Adaptive Building Re-use Committee Report by Gordon Price: The committee is now down to two options that they will present to the Board of Selectmen when Durkee Brown gives them more accurate cost estimates:

#1 Tear down two wings of the Gates School. Renovate the rest of the building to house Town Hall, School Administration and the Rec Department. Build a stand alone senior center in the SW corner of the property facing the soccer field.

#2 Tear down Gates School. Build the Senior Center in the SW corner. Possible uses for the land would be playing fields and recreation space. Other possible uses would be over 55 housing. That option would require a zoning change which may be difficult to do.

The next meeting of the Re-use committee is Scheduled for May 19 at the Town Hall.

Guest was MCOB chairman, John McLaughlin. He spoke about the need to make Scituate handicap assessable, but he likes to take a less hardnosed approach. After evaluation, he prefers to go to John Danehy and discuss the needed changes rather than send a report to the state. Oftentimes the changes can be made and John has been very helpful. He noted that there were assess ability issues at the Senior Center especially with handicap parking places. He had graphics showing what handicap parking places should look like. There is a bill that will come up soon to bring federal and state guidelines in sync with each other.

Friends of Scituate Seniors Report by Bette Johnson: FOSS had a very productive and positive meeting with Linda to determine opportunities to work together to benefit the seniors in town. FOSS volunteers worked at the recent very successful Health Fair. They now have 253 members. New Board of Directors elected this month were Pauline Souther and Sandra Duffy. They are going to have another Trivia Night at St Mary's Hall on October 28. Sandy Duffy reported on the upcoming Golf Tournament and handed out flyers to the Board members. They have 22 holes sponsored and 11 teams playing. They need 25 teams to make this a success.

Time did not allow for a discussion of the COA by-laws that was on the agenda. Dr. Price asked that all the board members spend time this month reviewing the materials that Linda sent and make the by-laws a focus of the meeting Board meeting.

New business: Discussion of new board member nominations coming up in June.

As there was no old business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Conway, Secretary