

Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, February 14, 2019

Call to order – 5:37pm

Attendance: Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Gordon Price, Vice-Chair, Leslie James, Helen Jablonski, Lucille Sorrentino, Janice Lindblom, Caitlin Coyle, Henry Yeh and Janice Desmond and Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director.

The minutes for the January 10, 2019 meeting were approved by the Board with a few minor edits.

Director's Report:

1. Program Updates:

- Seniorities program of job seeking ended on January 11th and restarted on January 23rd. More than 40 people showed up at the library for the initial meeting and more than 30 at the 2nd, underscoring the need.
- Tech time, an inter-generational program, held a monthly meeting on February 13th. There were 5-8 pairing of students with seniors and all were engaged. An annual dinner is planned with the students for March 25th, which is the fourth year this has been held.
- A soup and sandwich 'Drop-In Café' lunch began in January and one is planned for February 19th as well. The plan is to hold these on the 3rd Tuesday of each month.
- A fourth group of the Memory Training Workshops has begun and will run for 4 weeks. This program is made possible due to a grant from the Scituate Education Foundation. Linda hopes to hold 3 more sessions following this current session.
- New Parkinson's support group has been formed and will meeting beginning February 19th at the Community Building at 12 Noon and will be led by an experienced facilitator.
- Nordic walking group continues to be a popular group. Recreation gym was used a few times for this as well.

2. General/Office:

- A Café talk with the new town assessor, Joe Divito, was held on January 22nd with 22 people in attendance. He outlined some changes in the Senior tax work-off program as well as presented information on the current property valuations. There have been 27 applicants for the 2019 tax work-off program and the number may need to be capped at 25. Linda is in the process of trying to place all of the applicants and has received approval from the Town Administrator to raise the hourly rate of payment. This still needs to be approved by the Board of Selectmen.
- The Legislative breakfast is held one time per year. This year Duxbury is hosting an inter-town meeting at the Duxbury Senior Center on March 1.
- Patrick Kearney, the newly elected State Representative came to the Senior Center on January 25th for a meet and greet. There were 8 people in attendance. He came to answer any questions.
- Linda is again planning for the Senior Center to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade with a float. A planning meeting will be held at the Senior Center on February 20th at 3PM.

- The Age Friendly Steering Committee meeting was held on January 15th and the next meeting is scheduled for February 19th.
 - The Board reviewed the transportation report for January. The numbers were up a bit. Linda reported that the high numbers of cancellations continue to be problematic. The senior center is looking at making some changes related to out of town medical appointments to save money.
 - The Board reviewed the Outreach program numbers. 107 people received outreach assistance in January. The Housing Authority conducted an Emergency Management meeting in January.
2. Discussion of Senior Center Project:
- Project to be discussed in a joint meeting between the BOS and Scituate Council on Aging Board following this month's meeting.
 - COA met with the Recreation Commission on January 16th. The meeting was positive but they wanted more questions answered before providing their full support.
 - Joel Bargman and Steve Kirby met with the Historical Commission on 3/31. They reported that meeting went well and they are reviewing the project.
 - Linda met with the Capital Planning Committee in January and they were concerned with the costs as currently outlined.
3. Council on Aging Board Meeting was adjourned at 6 PM.

February 14, 2019 – Joint Meeting of Council on Aging Board with Scituate Board of Selectmen convened at 6:10 PM.

Attendance: Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Gordon Price, Vice-Chair, Leslie James, Helen Jablonski, Lucille Sorrentino, Janice Lindblom, Caitlin Coyle, Henry Yeh and Janice Desmond and Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director. Board of Selectman: John Danehy, Chair, Karen Canfield, Tony Vignani and Sean Harris. Maura Curran was not in attendance. Also in attendance were Joel Bargman, Architect and Steve Kirby, Project Manager.

- John Danehy reviewed the purpose of the meeting noting that the BOS is split 3/2 around the existing plan and he wanted to have an open exchange to understand how the COA is viewing the existing plan vs. a newer option.
- Steve Kirby outlined the history of the current project.
- Joel Bargman presented a new proposal that has been put forth to build the Senior Center on the grounds of Gates School without tearing down the main part of the school (B wing). The C wing would be torn down and the new Senior Center would be built generally between the standing B wing and the, to be demolished, C wing. The architect had re-worked the design of the new building to meet this new proposal.
- Both BOS and COA boards openly discussed the pros and cons of the new proposal vs. the existing proposal to erect the new Senior Center in the location of the B wing, after it has been torn down.
- There was discussion and questions from the public in attendance.

- A vote was taken by both the COA Board and the BOS Board to either #1 continue with the outlined plan to demolish both B and C wings of Gates and move ahead with the plan to build a Senior Center on the location of the B wing or #2 to move ahead with the new design to demolish only the C wing and build a new Senior Center on the grounds of the Gates school between the B and C wings. The majority of the COA Board voted for the 2nd proposal (5 to 3 in favor of proposal #2) and the majority of the BOS Board voted for the 2nd proposal (3 to 1 in favor of proposal #2).
- The BOS were to continue the discussion of when to put this plan on the Town Meeting agenda at their next scheduled BOS meeting on Tuesday, February 19th.

Joint meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.