

Council on Aging Board Meeting – Thursday, January 10, 2019

Call to order – 5:35pm

Attendance: Board Members: JD Miller, Chair, Gordon Price, Vice-Chair, Leslie James, Helen Jablonski, Lucille Sorrentino, Janice Lindblom, and Janice Desmond, Linda Hayes, Senior Center Director and Joan Powers, Liaison to South Shore Elder Services were in attendance. Caitlin Coyle and Henry Yeh, Board Members were absent.

The minutes for the November 29, 2018 meeting were approved by the Board.

Director's Report:

1. Senior Center Project:

- The Public Building Committee met on 12/11/18. The design for a re-worked exterior and corresponding interior plans were presented to comply with some requests from some residents.
- A meeting was held with abutters to hear their concerns. A Meeting was held with the Historical Society who felt the re-worked design held the best chance for design approval. Linda Hayes and the architect have scheduled a meeting with the Disability Commission. A meeting with the Recreation Commission has been scheduled and a meeting with the Historical Commission is being scheduled.

2. General/Office:

- Linda presented the Council on Aging budget to the Board of Selectman on 12/18/18. The budget is level funded. There is a small shortage in the GATRA budget which Linda will request funding for at a later time, as needed.
- The Tax Work-Off Program is gearing up again. The Board again had some discussion on the feasibility of having Meals on Wheels program as an option. Linda met with the new Assessor recently to discuss the program. There is a cap on the program therefore it may be difficult to place all the applicants. This remains an open question. Linda recently attended a MCOA meeting and one of the topics included Senior Relief Tax programs, giving her insight into what other towns are doing.
- The COA has a new driver for transportation in place who is doing back up. Out of town medical visits have increased.
- The Formula Grant contract has been distributed to Scituate which is based on the number of elders in town. This year's grant is \$52,000. There will be more discussion around this once received by the COA.
- CPR training and re-certification for the COA staff was completed on 12/5/18.
- Seniorities show will be taped on 12/11/19 featuring Debbie Raymond, who is facilitating the 50+ job seekers program.
- The next Age Friendly Steering Committee meeting will be held on 1/15/19.
- Sand buckets again have been delivered to elders in town.
- Donna Green donated some of her books for fund raising for the COA.
- A 'meet and greet' with Patrick Kearney, the newly elected representative, will be held on Friday, 1/25/19 at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

- Duxbury COA invited Scituate COA to attend a regional breakfast for Duxbury, Marshfield, Kingston Plymouth and Scituate on 3/1/19 at the Duxbury COA.
3. Program Updates:
 - The Christmas luncheon was held on 12/18/18 for 45 seniors. Piano entertainment was volunteered.
 - Transportation for the November/December time period was reviewed by the Board. Somewhat down in December which is possibly due to the Holidays.
 - Outreach activities reviewed by the Board. 22 seniors were serviced in December and there has been an increase in requests for fuel assistance. There has been a change in the process for the housing authority housing needs lists. Some online training related to this has been offered.
 - The Town Assessor is coming to the Senior Center for a Café talk on 1/23/19 to discuss abatements and credits available; SNAP and the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit for seniors.
 - J.D. Miller asked Linda how busy Norm (SHINE counselor) was in November and December. Linda reported he was very busy due to re-enrollment takes places in this time period.
 - Janice Lindblom asked Linda about salaries being paid out of the Formula Grant and if this reduced the amount of money being allocated to COA from the town. This year as in the past, a portion of the Formula Grant funding is used for a portion of COA staff funding. Linda is hoping to add another resource to the COA and will request from BOS and hopes to have funded as COA uses Formula Grant funding in other ways.
 - There is a Scituate Council on Aging Facebook page that is up and running.
 4. BOS Liaison report – Karen Canfield was not in attendance. Gordon Price suggested the COA request a new selectman liaison as Karen has begun full time employment in Boston is will be unavailable to make the 5:30 monthly meetings.
 5. Joan Powers – South Shore Elder Services (“SSES”) liaison report:
 - SSES met on 1/5/19 at which the Financial Report was reviewed as well as an updated Organizational Chart. It was reported that there are more private paid clients.
 - Wellness Week has been scheduled.
 - Legislative Breakfast will be held on Friday, 2/1/19 at the Quincy Neighborhood Club.
 - Meals on Wheels in Scituate got a new driver.
 - The next Sunday Community dinner will be held on 1/27/19 at St. Luke’s Church at 5PM.
 6. Discussion of Senior Center Project:
 - Linda showed the Board the updated drawing based on some Selectmen’s and community members requests. There is outdoor space between the Senior Center and the Gym.
 - Discussion was held of the best way to present the new building plans for the public.
 - Gordon commented on the recent BOS meeting, where the updated plans were approved, and his concern about perceived pessimism from both the BOS as well as the lack of enthusiastic support from the representative (the Director) from the Recreation Department.
 - As of now, the BOS is waiting for the outline of detailed costs that corresponds to the updated Senior Center plans.

- Discussion was held of ways to provide more public information to communicate the benefits of the new senior center as well as to educate the town of the cost of trying to rehabilitate the old Gates School to a compliant and acceptable new Senior Center.
- Both Joel Bargman (the architect) and Steve Kirby's (the project manager) schedules are being looked at to determine the best timing for public forums. An evening meeting may be held on 1/31/19 at the High School Performing Arts Center.
- Both the Advisory committee and the Capital Planning committee have to approve the plans as well. There are open questions as to what the process is in relation to these committees.
- It was proposed that a joint meeting with the Recreation Department be held as a significant portion of the estimated budget for the Senior Center and updated Gymnasium is for the Recreation Department.
- Gordon Price noted that there have been some grumblings about the COA minutes not being posted timely. The minutes are presented and prepared timely and are presented for Board approval at each meeting and then forwarded by Director to the Town Hall. There will be some follow up on this to determine if there is a delay in posting after these are sent to Town Hall.

7. Meeting was adjourned at 7:05PM.