

Council on Aging, Board of Directors, December 12, 2012

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 12, 2012

In attendance: Pam Davis-Chairman, Jim Harmon, Meg Stillman, Richard Mitchell, Rocky Carrabes, Joan Powers, Dale Balog, Jerry Fierimonte, Audrey Reidy and Florence Choate- COA Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM and the board was introduced.

Staff and Director Reports: Mrs. Choate asked the audience when the COA move was made from its location in the harbor to the Brook St. location. 30 years ago Catherine McGowan donated funds to remodel the Brook Street location, a challenging project that was a big success in its day. Staff evaluations were done in December. The Christmas party for the Seniors was held at the Harbor Community Building and was a huge success. The next party will be provided by the Cushing School PTO, headed by Tara Stone on 12/17. The St. Patrick's Day party will be at the COA as there are no cooking facilities at the SHCB. We plan to use the SHCB primarily for events not involving food service, and will focus on exercise and educational programs, the upcoming health fair and the concert in May. The health fair already has 22 organizations signed up to participate. Mrs. Choate has asked Richard Mitchell to assist in the budget preparation and asked board members to attend the presentations to the Selectmen on 2/19/13 and the Advisory Committee on 12/21/13. Programs: Yoga, chair yoga and cardio have added a second day to their schedule at the SHCB. Dale Balog starts her 4th memoirs class in January.

Social Services: home visits-1, office visits @COA-34, meetings attended-1, phone calls-58, referrals made-19, visits by previously seen clients- 108, new clients- 51. The social services coordinators met with the Veteran's Service officer- Don Knapp, and his assistant Chris Chessia to discuss coordinating referrals to provide veterans and their families the benefits they're entitled to.

Transportation: November rides: daily- 504, LINK- 66, MAP- none, volunteer drives- 10, total= 580. Miles driven by vans- 1376. The COA is handling an increasing number of calls for rides and there is only one coordinator (Quincie-Ann Cutler) to do the scheduling and coordinating. Some people are calling in several times re: the same ride they want to schedule and people are not always ready when the van driver arrives at their home. This results in a call back to the office and a call to the senior rider telling them the van is outside their door. The Board feels the COA needs volunteer help. The Senior tax work-off program would be the ideal way to benefit the COA and seniors in need of financial aid and they plan to bring the problem up to the Selectmen. There are additional problems with getting the funding from GATRA for all the transportation services and a meeting is to be held on January 31st to discuss it with Frank Gay.

Old Business: Richard Mitchell hasn't heard anything about a meeting to discuss the Gates School conversion to a town hall format. We are hoping the Public Bldg. committee will seek info from those selected to represent the departments affected by the proposed plan. Meg will report back on progress made by the Friends of Scituate and the MSBA regarding the schools. Mrs. Choate is very pleased about the younger people reaching out to interact with the seniors and becoming more familiar with what the COA offers. Young people don't realize the changes some seniors have seen in their lifetime and the experiences they've had; they are like walking history books or encyclopedias.

South Shore Elder Services: Joan Powers reported that SSES is partnering with South Shore Hospital, Norwell VNA and Harbor Medical to help keep people at home vs going to the hospital. They are trying to keep people from being discharged too early, resulting in their being readmitted again and being fined by Medicare. There is a new program for referring Seniors and veterans to groups that can provide them needed services and help such as meals on Wheels.

Commission on Disabilities: Jerry Fierimonte plans to attend the upcoming meeting on the 18th.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:47PM.

Pam Davis

ADDENDUM TO COA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF 12/12/2012

Agenda and minutes of the November 14th board meeting are available at the Town Clerks office.

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