

Council on Aging, Board of Directors, October 10, 2012
TOWN OF SCITUATE MASSACHUSETTS

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2012

Attendees: Pam Davis –Chairman, Florence Choate- Director, Daler Balog, Rocky Carrabes, Jerry Fierimonti, Jim Harmon, Richard Mitchell, Joan Powers, Audrey Reidy, Meg Stillman, Joe Norton- Board of Selectmen, John Danehey- Liaison.

Meeting was called to order at 6:00PM and board members were introduced.

Joe Norton made a presentation on the preliminary plans drawn up by the architects for the Gates School building if the master plan is passed in the future. The senior center will be incorporated in the new town hall with several other departments. The initial blueprint has the senior center on the first floor, in the rear with its own parking spaces. The town believes the move to Gates will be the best plan for all departments. The master plan hinges on the passage of the \$700K feasibility study for the school system, which is to be voted on at the town meeting on November 13th. The town is recommending to the MSBA that a new junior high be built on the site of the present town hall complex, close to the high school, or at least in that vicinity.

The board expressed concern about the lack of parking in the preliminary drawing and the problems encountered by the Hingham COA which is moving out of their town hall for that very reason, as well as the inability to grow with their senior population. It is expected that the feasibility committee for the master plan will take all of this into consideration in coming up with a better layout for SCOA.

Mr. Norton said that the anticipated cost of the entire master plan and new school could cost upwards of \$100M, which would result in a large tax increase for everyone. The board of directors expressed its concern about the financial burden on the seniors and the potential some seniors would not be able to afford to stay in their homes. Because the buildings are in such terrible shape, the town doesn't think there's any other way around the problem. If the master plan doesn't pass, the school can still be built on another location. The MSBA can say where they think the school should be built. If it passes, the new town hall could be ready in 4 years. The feasibility committee will begin meeting sometime in November.

Jen Morrison from the "Friends of Scituate's Future" spoke about the article on the warrant for town meeting regarding the \$600-700K for the feasibility study for Gates. The money is tax dollars already paid, so there won't be an override to pay for this. The money goes to the MSBA for a study of the entire Scituate school system, including an education and enrollment plan. They will recommend what becomes of the junior high and decide on the best location for it. This has no connection to the \$375K approved at a previous meeting and this money has to be separate. The intent is to show Scituate is committed to improving its schools. The town can expect to be reimbursed up to 50% of the cost of the study. If the school is built, the town could expect a refund of 42-55% of the cost from MSBA. If the article doesn't pass there won't be any reimbursement from the state.

The following officers were elected for the 2012-2013 term. Pam Davis- chairman, Jim Harmon- vice-chairman, Richard Mitchell- treasurer, clerk- open rotating of board members to do the minutes.

The minutes of the August 8th and September 12th meetings were accepted as written.

STAFF AND DIRECTOR REPORTS:

PROGRAMS: Mrs. Choate reported that participation has grown 50% in the program participation as a result of being able to use the community building in the harbor and there are many new people who have not participated before. We expect to provide up to 7000 rides this year. The new Italian class is very popular. There will be a craft show on November 9th at the community center and the funds raised will go to help with fuel assistance for veterans. Many thanks to Tom Edwards and the fine job he does organizing

this. There will be a senior art show on Dec. 8th, and a dinner provided in November by the "Twelve Women of Scituate" whose mission it is to help their community.

DIRECTORS REPORT:

The transition to running programs at the harbor community building is going well with the help of our Jenny Gerbis and Paula Berry, the town scheduler. The seniors are happy to be there as it fills the need for additional parking and additional space, but they worry that it won't be a long lasting situation. The caregivers meetings are well attended and they appreciate being able to bring their loved ones with them. We are busy with Fuel Assistance for any residents of Scituate in need, and also with open enrollment for Medicare and prescription RX.

Mrs. Choate attended the MCOA Conference at Sea Crest, attended by representatives of 350 COA's. Kevin Kelly (Building Facilitator) will be working on the necessary remediation made evident by the environmental study.

SOCIAL SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER: Home visits-6, office visits-39, meetings/events attended- 1, phone call- 64, referrals made- 28, duplicated numbers(people who have been seen before)-119, unduplicated numbers-58. Social services coordinators attended a fuel assistance training program. They can work with any resident of Scituate who applies for benefits so they don't have to drive to Plymouth and the South shore Community Action Council is.

TRANSPORTATION: Daily rides- 514, LINK- 55, MAP- 0, Volunteers- 7, for a total of 576. Total miles driven by the vans- 1250. Mrs. Choate reported that with GATRA running the van service we are saving the town about \$100K per year. The new GATRA service which will serve the entire town has not been implemented yet.

OLD BUSINESS: The chairman thanked Richard Mitchell for volunteering to be the COA representative on the master plan feasibility committee. He will be representing the COA, but more importantly, the seniors of Scituate, working to get the appropriate space and amenities required by the COA for today and the future.

NEW BUSINESS: The health fair will take place in April and Mrs. Choate is asking for volunteers from the board to assist in putting it on. Dale Balog, Joan Powers and Pam Davis volunteered to help.

REPORTS:

SSES- Joan Powers reported that they are implementing a new Health Care Delivery System, which will link the hospital, doctors and home health care personnel enabling them to work together for the benefit of the patients.

Comm. On Disabilities: Jerry Fierimonti reported that there was no meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25PM

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Davis

ADDENDUM TO COA BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF 10-10-12

Agenda and minutes of August and September board meeting minutes available at the Town Hall.

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

Blue prints of Gates School proposed layout available at BOS office, Town Hall.