

Council on Aging, Board of Directors, April 17, 2013

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2013

In attendance: Pam Davis – Chairman, Jim Harmon – Vice Chairman, Dale Balog, Audrey Reidy, Joan Powers, Florence Choate – COA Director.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00PM with an introduction of the board.

The minutes of the March board meeting were accepted as written.

Staff and Director Reports:

Mrs. Choate reported that The St. Patrick's Day party was successful but several people had to be turned away due of lack of space at the COA. If plans for a new center at Gates are approved this won't be an issue in the future. The intergenerational event by the Cushing PTO was successful. The seniors and children all had a wonderful time together. The COA is now able to bill out for the GATRA bus services and the town will receive \$93,000.00 back from GATRA this year for transportation expenses.

Programs: The memoir writing class began on March 12th, led by Dale Balog. Pilates failed to generate enough interest and the class was cancelled. The forum on tax breaks was very successful. It provided information to the seniors on what the requirements are for applying. The seniors who didn't attend, who have questions, can call the COA for that information on any of the tax breaks before they begin the application process. The CPA tax is the easiest to apply for as the income limit is higher than the other tax breaks. They are very involved in promoting intergenerational programs. The high school social studies class is working with 15 seniors who will share their experiences growing up as young people in a different era. The girl scouts not only earned their cooking badge at the COA kitchen but signed up with the art class instructor Joanne Pappandrea and her class to earn their art badge. The Jenkins School 2nd grade is hosting a pizza party and talent show with seniors on May 17th at 4:00PM. You can call the COA if you're interested in attending.

Social Services: Home visits-4, office visits at COA- 17, meeting/events attended- 1, phone calls- 54, referrals made- 15, duplicated numbers(clients who have been helped before)-81, unduplicated numbers (new clients)- 45. Social services workers attended a joint meeting with others to learn about bilateral cochlear implants from a woman who has them. Important to know what hearing aid alternatives are and what insurance coverage is in place.

Transportation: (March rides) daily- 492, LINK- 56, volunteer- 6, for a total of 554.

The COA needs volunteers to escort seniors who need assistance shopping. The 2 people who were escorts have quit. With over 6000 seniors in town it will be an increasing need. Dale and Audrey volunteered to help. The COA expects to provide 7000 rides this year.

A reminder was made that the Health Fair is on April 26th at the SHCB. There are now 28 vendors who will be there including the Lions Eye bank bus. Mrs. Choate wants senior to know that if you are at the hospital for observation your insurance will not pay for that and you must be admitted in order for them to pay. Mrs. Choate also discussed a new forum planned for September that will deal with Alzheimer's and dementia, dementia being more common and it causes several health problems. There is a caregiver's support group that meets at the COA each month. The expenses incurred by caregivers for their family members are sometimes astronomical and it's an issue that needs to be addressed.

Old Business: none

New Business: A gentleman had contacted Mrs. Choate about the Selectmen candidates and their opinions and needs of Scituate's seniors. He felt they were not adequately addressing the issue and asked that she host a forum. It was decided that there was not sufficient time to pull it together and perhaps the newspapers could better handle the issue on such short notice.

South Shore Elder Services: Joan Powers reported that the by-laws were being drafted, the Senior Care organization and Mass Health eligibility was were discussed at the last meeting. There is a community dinner put on by the Rotary scheduled for April 28th at St. Luke's, at 5PM. All are welcome and assistance

is always appreciated. There was no Commission on Disabilities meeting. Richard Mitchell had briefed Ms. Davis on his tour of the public safety buildings and the town hall. His assessment was the police station just didn't work anymore, the fire station was in the wrong part of town and the town hall was overcrowded.

The topic of senior day trips was brought up. They were discontinued for lack of participation. People were making reservations, a minimum of 40 people were needed each trip, and people would back out at the last minute and the trips had to be cancelled. Mrs. Choate would like some senior volunteers to work with the COA to perhaps start up a new trip program. Perhaps it would be more successful if cancellation refunds were not allowed.

Mrs. Reidy said she spoke with one of the librarians about starting a program that would get books to seniors unable to get to the library. It's something that will be looked at after the health fair. Fliers would be included with Meals on Wheels.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:54PM

Pam Davis

ADDENDUM TO COA BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 17, 2013

Agenda and minutes of the March meeting are available at the town Clerk's office.

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