

Scituate Council on Aging, Board of Directors, January 9, 2013

Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2013

In attendance: Pam Davis- Chairman, Rocky Carrabes, Richard Mitchell, Joan Powers, Jerry Fierimonte, Jim Harmon, Audrey Reidy, Dale Balog and Florence Choate- COA Director. The meeting was called to order at 6:03PM.

The minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting were accepted as written.

Staff and Director Reports: Mrs. Choate reported that her budget was completed and ready to be presented to the Board of Selectmen on Feb. 19th and the Advisory Committee on Feb. 21st. The GATRA transportation items of the COA budget are of major concern and require a new contract from GATRA so expenses actually incurred can be reimbursed. We have billed out for 6 months expenses but reimbursed for only two. Items as shown on the Duxbury and Marshfield monthly billings aren't broken down the same way ours are. We can't bill out for the transportation coordinator costs or the administration costs. Mrs. Choate has been in touch with Frank Gay from GATRA and will next call our State Rep. Jim Cantwell for assistance.

Mrs. Choate has organized a forum to be held on March 5th to discuss tax relief and assistance for Seniors on their tax bills and financial help with septic failures and sewer installation. The town's assessor Steve Jarzembrowski will discuss the work off program and how Seniors can qualify. Seniors are also eligible for a discounted rate on the CPA tax if they qualify. A Medicare Forum is to be held on January 15th. It will cover changes that may be coming and how better to be good stewards of their Medicare dollars.

Programs: The Art Show and Sale was held on December 8th and though not as successful as in the past, the COA received \$131.00 from the show. The Senior Christmas Party was very successful and entertaining, but the highlight of the month was the dinner organized by the Cushing School PTO at the SHCB on December 17th. The parents and children all participated, and treated the Seniors to a wonderful meal and great entertainment. There were prizes for the Seniors, the children sang holiday favorites and a good time was had by all.

Transportation: Daily rides for December were 462, LINK rides – 72, volunteer rides – 6, for a total of 540. Volunteer hours:23. Miles driven by COA vans: 1143.

Social Services: COA office visits – 23, meetings/events attended – 1, phone calls – 66, referrals made – 18, duplicated numbers -98, unduplicated numbers – 47. Social services coordinators met with "Two Lights", a private, non-medical home care company on the South Shore. They were impressed by the manager's commitment to the Seniors in Scituate where she has roots.

Old Business: A date was set for the health Fair organization meeting, Wednesday, January 16th at the COA . The health Fair itself will be on April 26th at the SHCB. Mrs. Choate asked that board members attend the Selectmen's meeting and Advisory Committee meeting with her in February.

New Business: Richard Mitchell asked if anyone had heard about any upcoming meetings on the Master Plan. He is the representative for the COA regarding the potential move of town departments, including the COA, into the Gates School and we have not been advised of any meetings. There was some discussion about what might be on the warrant regarding the possibility of a new junior high and the tie in with Gates School. There are quite a few items on the warrant for April from what we have heard. Mrs. Choate has been in discussion with the COA staff regarding the use of their time and how it is spent. They intend to focus on health, welfare and education as they relate to Seniors and their quality of life. Seniors are living longer and rely on the COA for information. They want to present more forums to better inform Seniors on issues that are vital to their wellbeing.

There were no reports to be made by Joan Powers or Jerry Fierimonte.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Davis

