

Scituate Council on Aging, July 11, 2012

TOWN OF SCITUATE MASSACHUSETTS

Scituate Council on Aging
Board of Directors Meeting
July 11, 2012

Attendees: Pam Davis-Chairman, Florence Choate-Director, Dale Balog, Gerard Fierimonte, Joan Powers, Jim Harmon, Meg Stillman, Richard Mitchell, Audrey Reidy, Rocky Carrabes

Meeting called to order at 6:03 PM

2. Vote To Accept Minutes of June, 2012 Meeting:

--Accepted unanimously; those who attended June meeting.

Staff and Director Reports:

Director:

PROGRAMS

--The newsletter for July and August was mailed!

--We have several programs taking place at the SHCB and do the best we can with the scheduling. On occasion there is a conflict with other groups using the building in which case we host our groups at the Senior Center. The Director now asks groups who use the Community Building on a regular basis, book for a minimum of two months at a time.

--We are working on our July 4th celebration which is taking place on July 10th.

--We are also working on an opioid and prescription drug presentation that will take place on August 20th at 7:00 PM at the SHCB.

--We will kick off Heritage Days on August 2, 2012@ 12 Noon with a lovely luncheon.

--Our programs that were suspended for the summer will resume in September.

--June was a good month at the COA. More seniors are using our center with very positive responses. Our 90th birthday party was, as usual, a great success.

--Knitting, Yoga, Chair Yoga and a seniors group are holding their workshops at the SHCB. Our Selectman, Mr. Norton, granted us our own key to the SHCB so opening and closing for the various groups has become less time consuming. Thank you!

--On August 20, at 7:00 PM we are hosting, with the Health Dept. a workshop on Teen's use of prescription drugs and opiates. It is necessary for all household members to secure their drugs properly and dispose of them properly. Call 781 545-8722 with any questions concerning this issue.

--We are in the process of submitting our Formula Grant Our legislators have increased the funding to \$7.00/Senior. It pays Jenny's salary. We are appreciative to Reps, Hedland, Bradley and Cantwell.

Outreach

-- Home visits 4, Office visits 19, meetings attended 2, telephone calls 60, referrals made 22, duplicated numbers 93 and unduplicated 41. Our Outreach Dept. attended a Outreach Workers meeting at the Hingham COA. Discussed was our best resources for our local communities and we shared our "go to" resource of private donations which we use to help our seniors with fuel and medical bills. How fortunate we are for these generous donations!!

Transportation

--Daily (Scituate) van rides 527, LINK 105, Volunteer 4, Total Rides, 636. Our Volunteers donated 41 hours driving seniors to their medical appointments and 6 hours escorting seniors to same. Our vans drove a total

of 1374 miles.

--GATRA contract has been signed. The Selectmen along with Laura Harbottle, Town Planner, will create an initial route. GATRA is working on grants to help fund Scituate's new transportation. For the most part, we will be using COA vans and drivers. In the future, we hope to connect with other south shore towns. This transportation is open to seniors and the disabled.

4. Old Business

A. According to our Chairwoman, the land swap between the Housing Authority and the Affordable Housing Trust is on hold as the Housing Authority has not signed off on their budget. It seems that two of their members, who will not sign the budget, may be called before the BOS to resign. Patty Butler of the Housing Authority is adamant about getting the swap on the agenda. Folks are concerned about a new school and new senior center.

--In regard to a new COA needs list as discussed in the last meeting, The Director strongly suggested that we have a Veteran's Agent in the building.

--MS Stillman suggested St. Francis Church as a possible site for a new Senior Center; great space, great parking, existing gym. The Director responded that there is a complicated procedure in purchasing Church property. It must be researched. A strong case must be made that the new occupants be dedicated to serving the community. MS Stillman suggested that we get a pulse on this from our Senior Activist group.

MS Reidy

thinks that our chances of procuring the property are remote and perhaps the time and money spent researching it would be somewhat wasteful. The Chairwoman asked, "Where do we go from here?" MS Stillman asked if we have looked at the plans from the community center. Mr. Mitchell comment that from all he's heard here, we do not WANT a community center. MS Davis agreed saying that a community center was considered a chance for getting what we can. The next meeting, the Board will look at the plans that were drawn up for the Branch St. property. The Chairwoman commented that a study was conducted in 1999 in regard to Branch St. It was projected at that time that by 2010, Scituate would be home to 4600 seniors. The study was amazingly accurate. MS Reidy asked, "Then what is our next step?" MS Davis said that the Town wants to hold back. They want us at the Gates School. However, Mr. Danehey had urged the Board to look at other options such as a new senior center build with affordable housing on the Driftway. The Director said that we can no longer consider the Branch St. location as that land has been given to the library. Mr. Carrabes strongly urged that we push hard for the SHCB. The Director said that the COA Board needs to go on location and take a hard look at that building.

--Mr. Mitchell said that the Board needs to stop circling, get our option clarified, i.e. available land, build with affordable housing. We need to narrow the field to 2 or 3 options. MS Reidy offered to study the St. Francis option while MS Stillman will do same for the Gates school. On July 25, 2012, the SCOA Board will travel in a van to look at different locations. **

5. New Business-None

6. Reports

A. SSES Report by Joan Powers—None. No meeting convened.

B. Comm. On Disabilities Report by Jerry Fierimonte—None. No meeting convened.

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

**The date has since been changed to August 1, 2012 at 6:00 PM

Respectfully submitted
Quincie-Ann Cutler