

Council on Aging, Board of Directors, June 13, 2012

Scituate Council on Aging

Board of Directors Meeting

June 13, 2012

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

Meeting called to order at 6:00 PM

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

--Accepted unanimously

Staff and Director Reports:

Director:

--May's big news is our acceptance into GATRA (Greater Attleboro Taunton Regional Transportation. GATRA will begin as soon as the contract is signed. It will start locally and adjustments will be made in the routes as we progress and numbers are monitored. The most exciting changes will come when we connect with bordering towns.

--The COA held two large functions at the SHCB. Some programs, Yoga, Chair Yoga are moving from the senior center to SHCB in July. The Knitting Group is presently using the building for their class. Our July 10th luncheon, in celebration of July 4th and America will be held there as well. The Caregivers Group will be there on July 18th. We are hoping that by using this venue often, we are serving our seniors better and allowing our programming to increase. We have requested a landline phone and reception desk.

--Some programs take the summer off, some will continue. Edward Jones and Sotheby's Hosted a luncheon and program at the SHCB, "The Right Move." This workshop helped those who are considering selling their homes. Life Care South and South Shore Hospital hosted a workshop on health care proxies. This event was held at the Senior Center.

--Country Western Dancing, Art Class, Men's Breakfast and Bridge are programs that are still being held at the Senior Center.

--The downside to hosting larger crowds at the SHCB is that there are no kitchen facilities and meals must be catered. Affordable only through generous donations.

--We hope to meet soon with our active supporters in favor of our move to SHCB soon.

Outreach

-- Home visits 3, Office visits 16, meetings attended 2, telephone calls 56, referrals made 5, duplicated numbers 89 and unduplicated 30. Our Outreach Dept. attended a Conference at Lombardo's hosted by SSES titled "Aging Is Everyone's Future."

It concentrated on memory loss and the distinguished speaker was Dr. Alan Geller, a neurologist. He presented the difference between "normal" memory loss with aging and other forms of memory loss.

Transportation

--Daily (Scituate) van rides 510, LINK 86, Volunteer 9, Total Rides, 605. Our Volunteers donated 53 hours driving seniors to their medical appointments and 4 hours escorting seniors to same. Our vans drove a total of 1549 miles.

4. Old Business

A. GATRA-The Chairwoman commented on the article in the Patriot Ledger that brought GATRA more to light. The Town Administrator is working with GATRA to establish an initial route that will cover Town Hall, Greenbush, Harbor, etc. and run 4 days a week. The Director said that this is merely a START and we will hopefully generate enough numbers to begin our connection with the town to town, South Shore route. The Director also brought to our attention that GATRA does not cost the Town a cent. They will take over all of our transportation expenses. The cost to riders is minimal.

4.B Affordable Housing/Senior Center-

--The Board decided to all make a list of preferable choices for the new Senior Center. Mr. Mitchell suggested that The Board go step by step in the process and lay out basic CRITERIA (instead of Preferences) first and proceed from there. He suggested that the Board think "Solutions rather than Locations. " Mr. Mitchell also said that we need to consider parking, square footage, ease of access, i.e. basics. The Director replied that we need 7500 sq. ft. and 60 parking spaces. She said we also need 3 offices, outside space, a kitchen, and program rooms. Mr. Mitchell suggested that we go back to 'criteria' and refocus

On highest priorities. The Director notified the audience that there will be various forums held around town in regard to the "Gates Project." They are by invitation only.

MS Stillman asked that the Board look at 'all moving parts.'

5. New Business-

A. The Scituate COA is hoping to expand its services. By holding our Caretaker Group at the SHCB, we can expand our reach. The very nature of such a group is highly personal and difficult emotionally, at best. The SHCB provides privacy and by inviting the Caretakers' loved one to the group (attended to by a volunteer); we are hoping that we can reach out to more Caretakers. The SHCB would serve the same purpose for a proposed Bereavement Group.

B. Establishing Volunteer Coordinator. We depend on our Volunteers for many things. With so much happening in two separate buildings, we need all of our programs, luncheons, etc. to be well organized. Our volunteers already do so much of the grunt work on these occasions. With one point person, activities would be filtered to our volunteers and create a bit of a smoother flow. The Director may be contacted regarding this position.

6. Reports

A. SSES Report by Joan Powers—Ed Flynn, Director of South Shore Elder Services has retired. His position was filled by Sandra Lindsey who worked with Mr. Flynn for 6 months. Also, the Union workers at SSES have received a pay increase that was written into their contract for the next 3 years.

B. Commission on Disabilities Report by Gerard Fierimonte—The Commission on Disabilities sends their 'kudos' to Scituate for our impending GATRA service. It will be far easier transportation for many of our disabled seniors and NON seniors!

7. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Quincie-Ann Cutler

ADDENDUM TO COA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF 6-13-12

Agenda and minutes available at the Town Clerk's office

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