

## Scituate Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2015

In attendance: Chairman-Dr. Gordon Price, Board-Pat Conway, Dale Balog, Beth McCabe, Lucille Sorrentino, Audrey Reidy, COA-Linda Hayes, Lisa Thornton. Absent: J.D. Miller, Marty O'Toole

At 6:35pm meeting called to order by Dr. Gordon Price. Thank you for coming. Thank you to Dale for doing a great job on the minutes. Dr. Price asked for someone to take the minutes for the meeting. Lisa Thornton will do her best to take minutes for tonight's meeting.

Minutes of the April Meeting were accepted.

Dr. Price points out that every Tuesday there is a staff meeting at noon @ Dr. Price's office. We spent a lot of time creating a mission statement, which they read every week. I'd like to take the time to read the mission statement as a reminder. Dr. Price..."I'd like to read it tonight. I think it's a nice way to start meeting."

Dr. Price reads Mission Statement. [COA Mission Statement on front page of Newsletter]

Linda Hayes expresses her appreciation to The Board for all the help toward accomplishing our mission.

Linda Hayes introduces Lisa Thornton as our newest staff person, Activities/Volunteer Coordinator, who began immediately on April 6<sup>th</sup>. She knows the community....been in Scituate for 20 years. She is working 25 hours/week, supported by The Formula Grant. Position had already been approved. She replaced Melanie Schneider.

Lisa Thornton will be planning short term and long term activities, as well as recruiting volunteers for programming. She will be trying to add some new activities, and creative ideas. Lisa presents about her first few weeks, her goals, recent training on Intergenerational programming as well as her background.

Director's Report: Linda points out that she wants more people to sign in for the activities because she can't rely on the numbers in MySeniorCenter. Random checks of attendance during an activity shows missing attendance.

Fitness Activities currently going on:

New off-site locations (since vacating Community building for the Library) - Tai Chi @ St. Mary's, Yoga and Cardio @ St. Lukes, Yoga and Chair Yoga @ Maritime Center, Tai Chi class

Brook St Fitness Activities – Arthritis Exercise, Matter of Balance, Cardio

Learning Programs- Local history, "geology of the north river" class for summer to be held, 6:00-7:30pm, 3 evening series, would like to get approx 25 attendees.

Carpet remnants (bound, 12x12) for yoga classes at St. Lukes donated by Jamie Gilmore from Pavilion Floors. Linda is very happy with the carpet remnants and so are the attendees of the classes. Linda thanks Jamie.

Carpet squares to be replaced at Senior Center on Brook St. Well worth having new carpeting for the 3-5 years. Pavilion Floors donating materials. Budget to pay for labor to install. Great news!

Linda working on Newsletter.

Laura will be going on maternity leave for 12 weeks and will return in August. Jenny Gerbis to help with coverage, as well as Linda and we will have support from South Shore Elder Services during her leave.

Rep. James Cantwell came to Legislative Breakfast, which was a small group. He's on House Ways and Means Committee. He is trying to find money from state or federal for safety complex. Jim was instrumental in changing law in flood insurance. We discussed Tax work-off for seniors as well as Tax Deferment. Linda will look into this further with Jim. Dale Balog indicated that some seniors were not able to take advantage because the Tax Work Off numbers were low. Linda considers this an important goal to increase # of eligible participants. Jim Cantwell suggested a meeting with the Affordable Housing Trust, SCOA, and Housing Authority. It was a great meeting.

Men's Breakfast - speaker cancelled morning of the b-fast, so Linda called the Fire Department (Al Eliot, Deputy Chief) and Lisa called her husband (Software Engineer) to fill in last minute. Great presentation by Deputy Chief.

Linda attended meeting about GATRA. She indicated that she would like to get a new van. She is planning on creating a brochure for COA "dial-a-ride" which is GATRA-branded, based on brochures from other communities. GATRA pilot to start end of June.

Linda, attended meeting at UU church. Laura has become involved with helping some families through school guidance and the clergy association.

We received 6 donated tickets for Tony DuBois event at Barker Tavern. Also, 6 tickets donated for event at Plymouth Senior Center. She is working on recruiting.

Pat Conway and Beth McCabe attended COA Board Training at the Norwell COA, as well as Linda, which all said was great. Emmett, Executive Office of Elder Affairs of MA is a wealth of information and very funny! Linda brought a graphic depicting Population Growth. Linda noted that the "caregiver generation" is a much smaller group than the aging group!

**Social Services** Report from Laura: Advocacy for "at-risk" in April: 89 seniors, mostly visited them in her home. Question asked ..."How many home-bound seniors?" Is this the same as Friendly Visitor Program? We are not currently doing this, but we do have "dog visits", which is a friendly visitor!

**Outreach** Report from Jenny: Does 1-hour visit to 4 Scituate Housing locations every month.

**Transportation** Report: Dale noted that rides went down from March to April in the report. Dr. Price asked Linda about seniors getting rides back home from appointments. In-town medical rides do have to be scheduled, but sometimes it can take a bit of extra time for pick up. Ride could be 15-20 minutes on either side of the desired pick-up time. Dale Balog commented that Q does a tremendous job with coordinating transportation. We have two vans, however usually not at the same time. Special situations or special trips for activities, we will make use of 2<sup>nd</sup> van.

**South Shore Elder Service** report by Joan Powers: SSES met on May 5. Dolores Page added to board. 118 employees, despite cuts. Moved to a new section which is very nice. Increased outreach services to veterans, as well as widows. Active with social media, especially Twitter. Will cover caregivers 18+ years. Caregivers can be paid. Unfortunately spouse cannot be paid. Over 50 people are getting meals

on wheels. Methodist church provides a served meal for \$2.00 on M, W, F. Spring Boutique scheduled for June. Anyone is welcome for Sunday dinners, which started 10 years ago. It's a home cooked meal at 5pm. Senior is home by 6:30pm.

**FOSS** update by Joanne Ball: Thanks to the Senior Center for van transportation. Over 100 people came to dinner. It was a great success. They want to do more fundraising and will be forming a committee. Dale handled the raffle. 20 volunteers for this and they did a great job. Thanks the board for coming. FOSS did not put the event on Facebook because they may have had too many attendees. Bette Johnson will be liaison between FOSS and COA staff and COA Board. Dale commented that it was a great social time. Majority was seniors and it was a great night out. Important to socialize. Music by Bill Richter was tremendous. He will always be around to support the seniors. Linda would like to see the COA staff be involved and help to work together. Dr. Price hoping that Bette gets in touch with him and Linda so that she can help coordinate between the two groups. These events do not go in the newsletter because the COA does not know about them ahead of time. Dr. Price hopes the communication between the two will continue to go more smoothly. We are all here with the same goal in mind.

The **Program subcommittee** reported that they want to support the COA and current activities. We still have to enjoy ourselves and live together now. Linda is doing a great job, but the Board/committee wants to help and support the COA. Pat commented that the board should continue to meet to discuss what's going on now at the senior center, not just meet to plan for a future senior center.

Pat Conway mentioned adding a garden in the new senior center.

Linda wants Life Long Learning to continue.

Dr. Price commented about seniors wanting more outdoor activities. In Rockland ... Pickleball courts, walking etc. Linda mentioned Bocce courts in Duxbury and Quincy.

**Facilities Subcommittee:** Dale visited and Dr. Price and JD as well on a different day. Dale did not call ahead for a tour, but the director did accommodate her visit. Receptionist greeted Dale, which is a paid job. Director found money for a paid part-time receptionist because this position as a volunteer is unreliable. Dr. Price commented on part time employees in Rockland. Dr. Price also visited Duxbury and Marshfield. He wants to get to Hingham to visit their space. All centers are interesting. Peg at Rockland started as volunteer and is now director. Started at 250/300 members in old building, and now in the new center they have about 1,000. Dr. Price not impressed with the layout ... did not think it was well thought out. Bathrooms were far away. Only one private room for consultations. His opinion was the kitchen was over the top. Overall they think it is working well for them. Interestingly, Rockland's demographic is about the same as Scituate, pop. 18,500. Space is a little over 9,000 sq. ft. at a cost of 3.6 million dollars (\$4/sq ft). Grant money and Private Money. Every room has a plaque indicating a donated space.

Dr. Price said people are talking about the name of centers and getting away from calling it a senior center, an as an idea calling it a multi-generational center, for example. He thinks we would do well to think about our center as a multi-generational center, to attract younger seniors through the name and the programming. Not to be confused with senior center/rec. department; he does not think this is a

good model. Kim Bennett will be coming to June meeting. She has offered to speak on her take on demographics.

Dale Balog wants to see the Friendly Visitor Program to come back and not on the back burner. She thinks it is very important. She spoke about a segment on an evening news program. He mentioned loneliness and being alone. Dale was a "friendly visitor" and thinks it is important. Dale said she would get involved again. Linda would love to talk about developing a formal program, but with Laura on maternity leave it will probably have to wait for her to be back and involved.

Motion to adjourn meeting approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Thornton