

Watertown Council on Aging

SENIOR CENTER

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PATRICIA GOLD, Chairperson

CARYL LESLIE FOX

MARIE MORELLO, Vice-Chairperson

Director of Senior Services

Minutes of C.O.A. Board Meeting – November 8, 2006

Present: Barbara Zenn Rediker, Marie Morello, Will Twombly, and Mary Keenan.

Members Excused: Dottie Fleming, Betty Finnell, Pat Gold, Jane Stadolnik, and Chris Hursh.

1. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Marie Morello.
2. The October minutes were read by Board members. Several minor corrections were noted. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Barbara Zenn Rediker seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

Board members reviewed the financial statements for the previous month. Will Twombly made a motion to approve and Mary Keenan seconded. Passed.

4. Correspondence:

a. Prescription Advantage forms are available at the Senior Center. The deadline for sign-up is November 15, 2006.

b. We received booklets from an organization called "Home Care Alliance", which lists various home care agencies in Massachusetts.

c. Caryl Fox has been in contact with the Town Tree Warden. This year's recipient of our service award, Ruth Thomasian, wants to plant a tree at the Senior Center through Trees for Watertown.

d. We have a packet of current literature from Social Security with updated information on Social Security and Medicare.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox highlighted areas from the three staff reports. We have been inundated with phone calls about flu shot dates, which have not yet been confirmed. Caryl Fox attended the October meeting of the Watertown Emergency Planning group. Sub-committees have been formed and Ms. Fox has been appointed chair of the elderly committee. Our Harvest Party was enjoyed by all who attended. A fall concert by Anna Bonfiglio was appreciated by all of her fans. Laura Gold's cases included a widow who is grieving and a person living in senior housing who has a hoarding problem. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

The Equal Choice bill passed and will be implemented some time in 2007. The bill allows an elder to choose to remain at home with appropriate services or in a nursing home. Daily participation at congregate meal sites has decreased although there was an increase in the number of unduplicated participants. Springwell is trying to provide more evening and weekend coverage for its very compromised clients.

b. Furnishings and Appliances for Senior Center:

The Friends' group may pay an honorarium for an interior decorator. There was a discussion on whether the furniture in the lounge could be reupholstered instead of replaced. New items includes the purchase of a refrigerator, a large television for the lounge, a portable television, conference table, and sofa, chairs, and tables for the lounge.

7. New Business:

a. Fuel Assistance '06 – '07:

The fuel assistance program begins on November 1, 2006. Caryl Fox and Laura Gold assist first-time senior applicants with the process. The forms are sent to Community Teamwork, the agency that makes decisions and administers the program.

b. EOEA Grant Increase:

Senior Centers are scheduled to receive a small additional increase for FY'07. Caryl Fox submitted an amended application to EOEA requesting funding for the printing of the newsletter calendars (\$2,060), and Massachusetts Council on Aging Dues (\$798). Currently, both items are paid for through the Senior Center Revolving Fund.

c. Mellowtones Revival:

A musician who accompanies Anna Bonfiglio is interested in facilitating the Mellowtones group. Kathleen Wolf has had some discussion with him about leading the group for a fee of fifty dollars per session if the Friends are interested in providing funding. Board members had the name of a local choral leader who they described as excellent and enthusiastic. Caryl Fox will contact her and see if she is available or can recommend others.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox