

# Watertown Council on Aging

SENIOR CENTER

31 MARSHALL ST.

WATERTOWN, MA 02472-3403

TELEPHONE: 617-972-6490

FAX: 617-972-6493

PATRICIA GOLD, Chairperson

CARYL LESLIE FOX

MARIE MORELLO, Vice-Chairperson

Director of Senior Services

## **Minutes of C.O.A. Board Meeting – December 13, 2006**

Present: Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Betty Finnell, Barbara Zenn Rediker, Dottie Fleming, Jane Stadolnik, Chris Hursh, and Will Twombly.

Members Excused: Mary Keenan.

1. The meeting was called to order at five thirty by Chairperson, Pat Gold.
2. Board members reviewed the minutes from the last meeting. Marie Morello made a motion to approve the minutes and Barbara Zenn Rediker seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

Caryl Fox and Board members discussed the November statements. The gas line item is just starting to be used as heating season starts. The amount in building maintenance this month doesn't include two recent repairs. The

Food Pantry Revolving Fund reflects that Deb Kaup is just beginning her annual fund-raising appeal. Will Twombly made a motion to approve and Chris Hursh seconded. Passed.

4. Correspondence:

a. Kathleen Wolf sent for informational brochures on various topics for the Center from the National Institute of health.

b. The Alzheimer's Association is having a "getting started" meeting for family and friends coping with someone newly diagnosed.

c. Our flyer on COA/Senior Center programs and services has been translated into Armenian. Board members offered suggestions for translations into Russian and Chinese.

d. The cold weather relief booklet is available for seniors. It lists all the resources available for helping Massachusetts residents with heating costs.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox highlighted the three staff reports. The flu clinic in November went smoothly, although there was confusion for seniors in the signing-up procedures. Caryl Fox submitted forms for additional funding for the FY'07 EOEI Formula Grant. Governor Romney has since cut the extra monies to COA's and it is unclear whether they will be put back in by the legislature. Speakers in November included representatives from the Prescription Advantage program and Fran Kollias from Social Security. Laura Gold is involved with the Housing Authority concerning a major clean-up needed in a unit of an elderly resident. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

Springwell is also facing cuts made by the Governor to some of the state budget line items. Betty Finnell retired from the Springwell Board after nine years of volunteer service.

b. Mellowtones Update:

Board members suggested that staff continue to see if a local group leader for the Mellowtones could be found. At present, there is someone interested who lives in Malden. Some more leads were suggested. The Friends of the COA would fund the Spring Mellowtones sessions.

## 7. New Business:

### a. Property Tax Work-off:

Caryl Fox has made the initial placements of this year's workers. The Library has four individuals and the School, Assessor's, and Personnel Departments have people placed as well. There is a possibility of someone for the Senior Center.

### b. Emergency Planning for Special Populations:

Caryl Fox has been attending meetings of the emergency planning group since this past summer. There are now sub-committees and Ms. Fox is chair of the one dealing

with the elderly. At a meeting in January, Caryl Fox will talk about where the concentrations of elders are in Watertown, and how we would help if an outside agency (rather than the Watertown Health Department) needed to come into Watertown during an emergency. It was acknowledged that regular duties would be suspended if staff needed to help seniors in an emergency situation.

### c. Proposed Community Center at Browne School:

Caryl Fox distributed copies of Town Councilor John Lawn's proposed Community Center at the Browne School. Board members thought this would be a good addition for children and teenagers. The Center would have an indoor track that seniors could use during bad weather, instead of having to walk in the local malls.

### d. Furnishings:

Caryl Fox said we expect to begin ordering in January, beginning with a new refrigerator, since our current one is leaking. The importance of a new

TV for the lounge was discussed. Micro-fiber may be a good fabric choice for the sofas and chairs in the lounge.

e. December Trip:

The trip on December 14, 2006 is not a full busload. Caryl Fox noted that we have had problems in the past with end of the year trips. A shopping trip for next year was suggested.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox