



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Council on Aging
SENIOR CENTER

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Caryl Leslie Fox
Director of Senior Services

Patricia Gold, Chairperson

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – April 11, 2012

Members present: Pat Gold, Dottie Fleming, Mary Keenan, Hagop Sarkissian, Will Twombly, Mike Donham, and V.V. Martin.

Member excused absence:

Staff members present: Caryl Fox, Kathleen Wolf, Debbie Dunn, and Laura Gold.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson, Pat Gold.

1. Minutes of Last Board Meeting:

The Board read the minutes of last month's meeting. Will Twombly made a motion to approve and V.V. Martin seconded. Passed.

2. Financial Statements:

Caryl Fox reviewed the statements from March with Board members. She noted that this year we should be able to get end of the year cleaning done in the building since we have needed few repairs this year in the Building Maintenance line item. We also have spent less on utilities due to the mild winter.

3. Income Tax Program Update:

The program has just concluded with more than eighty people having received tax help. We are trying to make sure that those who get fee assistance through AARP volunteers are low and moderate income individuals with reasonably simple returns. Some volunteers want to help everyone, even those with higher incomes and complicated returns.

4. Senior Shuttle Bus Update:

The funding for the bus was approved by the Town Council on March 27, 2012 as part of a loan authorization with capital items from five other departments. Caryl Fox presented the need for a new vehicle at that meeting. Department of Public Work Superintendent, Gerry Mee, and our bus driver, Joe Cavallaro, are working on finding the best vehicle for our needs.

5. Food Pantry Statistics:

Statistics of pantry usage over the last four years were reviewed at the meeting. The number of households has gone up, although there are fewer new households than three years ago. There has been an increase in the number of families with children who use the Pantry. The community has continued to be generous in its contribution of food and donation money to purchase food from vendors.

6. Yard Sale:

The annual yard sale that benefits the Senior Center Revolving Fund is Saturday, May 5, 2012. The seniors who help us enjoy making a contribution to the Center. People of all ages attend the sale and visit the Center. Volunteers are needed for set-up, selling, and clean-up. We are always in need of donated items to fill the gym for the sale.

7. Chairperson, Pat Gold, said that Watertown's local aid amount may be more than in recent years.

8. Board members discussed concerns about the impact that the MBTA fare increases will have on Watertown seniors. Especially distressing is the increase in the RIDE costs and more stringent rules for eligibility. Doctors are also now charging to fill out the forms.
 9. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30.
- Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox