



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- September 5, 2012**

Members present: Pat Gold, Hagop Sarkissian, Mary Keenan, Carol Airasian, and Dorothy Brown.

Member excused absence: Mike Donham, V.V. Martin, and Will Twombly.

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

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

1. The two new members of the COA Board, Carol Airasian and Dorothy Brown were introduced and welcomed by Board members and staff.

2. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Board members. A minor error was noted. Hagop Sarkissian made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mary Keenan seconded. Passed.

3. Financial Statements:

Caryl reviewed the financial statements. The electricity line item was used in the summer for air-conditioning of the Senior Center and for the Phillips gym during our activities. The Senior Center Revolving Fund is higher than usual because it has money in it for upcoming fall trips, which are on sale now. The Food Pantry Revolving Fund has more in the account than at this time last summer.

4. Recycling and Trash Barrel Changes:

Some Watertown seniors have been concerned about the new recycling and trash barrel changes which began in August. The Town's new vendor, Republic, came to the Center four times in July to provide information, demonstrate equipment, and answer questions. The Police Department has offered to help seniors who need physical assistance and do not have anyone else available.

5. Potential Senior Center Energy Improvements:

Caryl Fox participated in meetings on July 25, 2012 and August 22, 2012 concerning the plans for the Center's energy improvements resulting from the study that was performed on all Town Buildings by a consulting company. The Center has had heating problems for years and is slated to get a new boiler and new temperature control units. We may also get improved lighting fixtures in the multi-purpose room. No timetable has been set yet for any of the buildings.

6. November Ballot Questions:

There will be three questions on the November ballot. Question one deals with car repairs and Question 3 is about the medicinal use of marijuana. The focus of the discussion was on Question 2 that

deals with “the right to die with dignity.” The Center had a workshop last year that encouraged people to think about the choices they would make for end of life care that was well attended. Pat Gold shared an editorial from the Boston Globe concerning writer Ellen Goodman who is involved with a group that tries to persuade people to discuss these issues with family members. The Senior Center will look to have another lecture on the topic and will have literature on the ballot questions from the League of Women Voters and other sources.

7. Faire in the Square:

The COA/Senior Center will have a table at the faire with information available about our services and programs as well as material on the Watertown Food Pantry and other agencies. Staff will be there and Board members are welcome to volunteer. The faire is on Saturday, September 22, 2012 from ten to four.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox