



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 - November 13, 2013**

Members present: Pat Gold, Mary Keenan, Will Twombly, Mike Donham, V.V. Martin, Dorothy Brown, and Alice Wadden.

Members excused absence: Carol Airasian.

Staff members present: Caryl Fox and Debbie Dunn.

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chairperson Pat Gold.

1. The Board reviewed the minutes from the October meeting. V.V. Martin made a motion to approve and Dorothy Brown seconded. Passed.

2. [Financial Statements:](#)

Caryl Fox reviewed the financial statements with Board members. She noted that the current cost for medical transportation is seven dollars and fifty cents per ride. We ask for a donation from riders, which is deducted from the monthly bill. The line item is adequate for current usage. The Food Pantry donations from the Pantry Revolving Fund will be increasing as we come into the Holiday season. Letters have been sent out to previous donors and to organizations and businesses. The Marshall Home Fund Taxi grant continues to be used monthly more than previously and may run out before the next grant cycle.

3. Status of Various Capital Projects:

The proposed new deck has not received a good response from contractors in the Town's public quote procedure. Although several expressed interest, no one has followed through in the process. The Purchasing department will continue to work with us until the project is completed. Several Board members offered to inform local contractors about

the deck work. The front door to the Senior Center will be equipped with automatic door openers thanks to funding from the Watertown Commission on Disabilities. The roof of the building is nearly twenty years old and its condition needs to be checked. We will ask the Planning Department to help us with this process. Johnson Controls is slated to do several energy projects for the Center, including putting in a new boiler, new temperature controls, and new lighting. We expect to purchase new curtains and blinds.

4. New [Social Service Resource Specialist](#):

The new social worker for this position, Danielle DeMoss, was introduced at the department head meeting. She will be coming to the Center to meet with Laura Gold and Caryl Fox. The position has received private funding for a two year period. Ms. DeMoss will be working primarily with Watertown residents aged eighteen to sixty.

5. SNAP/Meals on Wheels Changes:

SNAP, the federal food stamp program has lost funding and the average recipient will receive thirty nine dollars less per month. Food prices are increasing and it is expected that use of food pantries will rise. The Watertown Food Pantry serves the diverse population of the community.

Springwell, the agency that runs the Meals on Wheels program for Watertown seniors will begin means testing for people who request the service. Most other organizations that have this program have been means testing for a while. For Springwell, the program has run at a deficit and has been subsidized by private fund-raising for years.

6. Snow Shoveling and Other Services Update:

Laura Gold has put together a new list of services for our inquiries about snow shoveling, lawn work, and handyman help. She used Angie's List as a resource and spoke with each vendor. We do not recommend these businesses, but serve as a clearing house for those requesting help. The issue of using high school students was raised. This possibility has been explored by the Town over the years; the few Towns that provide this require close school staff supervision and liability forms signed by students and their parents. Town Councilor, Ken Woodland, also worked on trying to set-up a Town program.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox