



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 - February 12, 2014

Members present: Pat Gold, Mary Keenan, Will Twombly, Carol Airasian, V.V. Martin, Dorothy Brown, Alice Wadden, and Burt Greenberg.

Members excused absence: Mike Donham.

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

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

1. The minutes of the [January](#) meeting were read by Board members. Will Twombly made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Keenan seconded. Passed.

2. Financial Statements:

Caryl Fox highlighted areas from the [financial](#) statements. She noted that the medical transportation and emergency assistance line items will need transfers from other COA line items before the end of the fiscal year.

Ms. Fox also let Board members know that a vendor has submitted a proposal to re-do the deck which has been approved by the Purchasing Department. Work is scheduled to begin in April.

3. [AARP](#) Income Tax Program:

AARP volunteers are working at the Center on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays to assist seniors with income tax preparation and filing. The program serves Watertown residents who have relatively simple returns. All forms are submitted electronically. We have already filled out about sixty-five slots.

4. Submitted FY '15 COA Budget Spreadsheet:

All departments were required to submit level service and 2.5% reduction budget scenarios for FY '15. Because COA's (including Watertown) were fortunate to receive an

increase in the EOEI Formula Grant we did not have to reduce any items in our budget presentation.

Caryl Fox met with Town Manager, Michael Driscoll, on January 29, 2014 to review the submitted material.

5. Discussion of Watertown Together [Presentation](#):

All COA Board members present discussed the Watertown Together presentation of last month and the possibility of future collaboration with the COA / Senior Center. It was suggested that the nature of such a relationship could be further explored by inviting representatives of the Brookline COA and Brookline CAN to attend a future Watertown COA meeting, affording an opportunity to learn how this model has worked in Brookline. The majority of the Board said that they thought that the group needs more time to develop its own identity and plans before considering collaboration. All agreed that additional help for seniors by organizations wanting to work with and for seniors is always welcome.

6. Friends of the COA Update:

Friends' president, Mary Keenan, gave a report on the fiscal status of the Friends. She plans to hold a meeting of the Friends in the spring to encourage new members for its Board. The Friends raise money primarily through its annual membership campaign and donations from individuals who have received income tax assistance at the Senior Center through AARP. The group pays for the Mellowtones leader and recently helped with the Taxi Grant. In the past, the fund also helped individuals who needed financial assistance.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox