

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – November 9, 2016

Board Members present: Mary Keenan, Dorothy-Jean Brown, Alice Wadden, Bertha Anderson, Carol Airasian and Linda Moffitt

Members excused absence: Patricia Gold and Burt Greenberg

Staff Members present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director; Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk

Dorothy Jean Brown called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Minutes

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the October 13, 2016 meeting. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes and Carol Airasian seconded. Motion approved.

2. Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon noted the Friends of the COA paid for the October and November trips with a reimbursement from the Senior Center Revolving Fund. The trips were well received and successful. Alice Wadden noted that the trip to the Peabody Essex Museum (PEM) was well planned and excellent and that the lunch at the the Danversport Yacht club was lovely. Mary Keenan asked about the 2 free tickets to the PEM that were given as a door prize at the Harvest Party with the possibility of The Friends donating tickets for a future trip. The tickets were paid by the Senior Center Revolving Fund.

Stop & Shop \$25 gift cards are being distributed at the Food Pantry for the Thanksgiving Holiday. 200 \$25 Target gift cards have been ordered for the Food Pantry for distribution at the Food Pantry for the upcoming holidays. The recent \$5,000 Project Bread grant pays for the Stop & Shop gift cards.

3. FY17 Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) Grant Allocation Update

Anne-Marie Gagnon shared that the EOEA Grant allocation is budgeted to increase for FY17, almost \$6,000 over last year. Extra funds will also be used for office equipment such as an LCD projector, volunteer gifts and our annual birthday party. For FY17, The Massachusetts Councils on Aging (MCOA) worked for an increase from \$9 to \$10 per elder served, based on a town's 2010 federal census figures for individuals age 60+. Once the contract is sent to us and signed, we will move forward to purchase additional equipment and other items.

4. My Senior Center Overview

Anne-Marie discussed the new My Senior Center data management system. Over 900 senior centers across the country use My Senior Center to track activities, time spent, bus ridership and other important contact information to enhance programs, services, funding and support for seniors who visit the center. We will have training for staff on December 6 and roll out program registrations for seniors in January.

5. December Activities

Debbie and Anne-Marie are working on adding more activities with food for December and 2017. Two group sing-a-longs with lunch and the Mellowtones music director Anne Silverman will be new in December. One will offer sandwiches and the other will offer Chinese food for a small fee.

The Town Assessor and Tax Collector will be holding a presentation about tax exemptions for seniors on December 21.

In January, Perkins School for the Blind will be presenting on low vision and Matter of Balance will begin on January 3rd for 8 weeks. Other upcoming activities include a paint event with Dawn, and a presentation on the notable women of Watertown.

Dorothy-Jean Brown will be joining us on December 7th as “Mrs. Mittens” when we host a holiday story time with our neighbors at the Watertown Integrated Preschool next door. We are planning a paper mitten craft activity with the teachers and the students and hope the Board members will attend.

Debbie is working to get the monthly newsletters to the publisher by the 10th of each month so that the printer has time to publish the newsletters well before the end of the month so they can be distributed sooner.

6. New Business:

Wi-Fi has been installed at the Senior Center. The computers in the activity room are on for users every day.

The gifts of the Watertown Tab and The Boston Globe subscriptions from Watertown Savings Bank and the \$200 award from the Watertown Mall for the scarecrow contest will be sent to the Town Council for approval.

The Senior Center now has a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WatertownMACouncilonAging. The Facebook page will allow for a broader reach to seniors and social media users interested in our services. Anne-Marie will manage the page.

Anne-Marie has expressed interest to the Planning Department in acquiring the vintage clock from the former East Branch Library. It needs a home and we hope to add it to the Senior Center in the future. The “Launching of the S.S. Watertown” painting that had previously hung in the Town Hall also needs a new home. We hope to have that installed here in December.

The Board discussed the issue of food and how we could add more offerings to the Center. Anne-Marie agreed to look into this, but daily lunch is a significant addition and cost, space and expense to cleaning services need to be investigated. There is an established daily meal site hosted by Springwell at 55 Waverly Street. A few members have decided to attend the meal site for lunch at 55 Waverly Street so that they have more information about what is served there. They want to encourage more seniors to attend the meal site.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by: Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk