



Watertown Council on Aging

SENIOR CENTER
31 MARSHALL STREET
WATERTOWN, MASS. 02472-3403
TELEPHONE: (617) 972-6490
FAX: (617) 972-6493

PATRICIA GOLD, *Chairperson*
MARIE MORELLO, *Vice-Chairperson*

CARYL LESLIE FOX
Director of Senior Services

Minutes of C.O.A. Board Meeting – October 14, 2009

Present: Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Mary Keenan, Jane Stadolnik, Betty Finnell, Dottie Fleming, Hagop Sarkissian, and Will Twombly.

Members Excused Absence: Mike Donham.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold.
2. The minutes of the September meeting were read by Board members. There was a problem with the September minutes, which contained portions of the July minutes, not the full September minutes. The correct minutes will be sent out to all Board members.
3. Financial Statements:
The Board reviewed the statements for the month of September. It was noted that the Food Pantry has been awarded a \$7,700 grant. Dottie Fleming made a motion to approve and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. A letter was received from the Rotary Club thanking us for offering transportation for seniors to the September 13, 2009 picnic.
 - b. The Mellowtones will be singing at the Armenian Memorial Church on October 10, 2009.
 - c. The Medicare notice from SHINE was received concerning the open enrollment period from November 15 – December 31, 2009.
 - d. Informational brochures about the Federal census in 2010 are available at the Center.
 - e. An update on the status of the seasonal and HINI vaccines was sent to the Senior Center from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.
5. Staff Reports:
The staff and Board participated in Faire in the Square on September 26, 2009. People seemed to appreciate having information available on our programs and services. Lectures included a Watertown nature photography show and a workshop on downsizing. All the classes that had recessed for the summer returned this month. BC Legal Services also had appointments for consultations in September.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Springwell Update:
New software for the protective services department has been installed. This newer version offers more privacy protection. A public hearing was held in September and was well-attended. Springwell will run a meals program at the new Belmont Center.
 - b. Quarterly Attendance Numbers:
Most of the programs had attendance that was on par with spring attendance or slightly

higher. Groups with increased participation included exercise and yoga.

7. New Business:

a. Property Tax Work-off FY '10:

Caryl Fox distributed information to department heads interested in participating in this year's work-off program. Applications for seniors will be available during the month of October.

b. Fuel Assistance FY '10:

Beginning on November 1, 2009, Laura Gold and Caryl Fox will be available to help first time Watertown senior applicants apply for fuel assistance. Laura Gold will do home visits, if necessary. The poor economy is continuing to have an effect on local seniors.

c. November COA Meeting:

Board members agreed that the COA Board meeting will be on Thursday, November 12, 2009 at 5:30 instead of on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 because the Senior Center is closed for Veteran's Day.

d. Phillips School Parking Lot:

The School Department's Building and Grounds Subcommittee meeting includes an agenda item about possibly allowing more high school students to park in the Phillips lot. There is a concern about having fewer spaces for seniors to park when they attend the Senior Center. Caryl Fox, Pat Gold, and Mary Keenan will attend the meeting.

e. Friends of the COA:

There will be a Friends of the Watertown COA meeting on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 2:00 pm. Friends President, Mary Keenan, invited all interested COA Board member to attend.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox