

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 6/8/2009

Present: Stephen Baran, Chair; Barbara Tallone, Treasurer; Sally Thompson, Secretary; Charlie Aaronson; Pat Ellis; Jim Papachristos; Paul Turner; Barbara Willson; Jean Fleming, Director; Mike Gowing, Liaison from Board of Selectmen.

Absent: Gena Manalan; Connie Ingram, President, Friends of the COA; Detective Dan Silva, Liaison Police Department

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:50 PM on 06/08/2009 at the home of Barbara Tallone

Review of the Minutes:

The minutes of the Acton Council on Aging Board meeting for 05/11/09 were accepted without correction.

Director's Report:

The July-August COA Newsletter is still accepting submissions.

Tuesday, June 9th Fathers' Day will be celebrated with a lunch and barbershop quartet. There will be a demonstration of chair yoga 1:30 to 2:30 that day.

Thursday June 18th is the COA Volunteer Reception.

The dispersal of Town funds have been put on hold by the town manager. Jean approached the Town Manager about funding for the flooring problem at the Senior Center which presents a safety problem. Current flooring estimates are \$13,000 to \$16,000. Steve Ledoux approved the funding because of the safety issue.

Jean reported that she will be applying to the state for a formula grant. The value of the grant will be likely of equal value as the grant for 2009 which was \$15,800. COA staff are reviewing ideas for the use of the monies which include:

- expanding classes offered- memoir writing, yoga, dance, A Matter of Balance-to reduce (practical strategies to reduce the fear of falls and increase activity levels), play reading, music, art, history, literature programs.
- Outreach assistant.
- Additional hours with a nurse on site to help with health and wellness education or participatory programs.
- Coordinator for monthly events to be held on weekends or evenings.
- Staff training – eg., on-line training.
- Additional staff to run computer training program.
- Additional staff to do volunteer training and recognition activities.
- Stackable sturdy chairs for the seated exercise programs.

The Senior Center is purchasing a new multi-use audio system with \$700 from the 2009 budget and \$400 from money donated by Rep. Jen Benson.

The Senior Center will be returning \$2000 from the non-personnel budget to the Town budget as the Town faces end of year challenges.

There is a plan in motion through proper channels to sell/remove one of the pool tables to make room for a computer area.

Meeting with Jen Benson

Those in attendance found Rep. Benson to be honest and forthcoming about many issues. She shared that the level of hostility from some voters has been very intense. The current budget has gone to conference committee. Rep. Benson said she would include with materials forwarded to the committee a letter from the Chair of the COA addressing the importance of COA programs to the health of the state's seniors.

Liaison to Board of Selectmen – Mike Gowing

- The BOS receives pessimistic financial information daily. Money is very, very tight.
- Mike sits on the Cable Advisory Board which is forming a 501(c)(3). There is a Public Education Government Access grant with monies available that would make it possible to expand TV programming on the town channel. The board discussed how seniors might take advantage of this programming expansion opportunity.
- Board members were asked to mark their calendars for November 16th at 8:15 p.m. when the COA board meets with the BOS to give an overview of the board's activities.
- Mike will present to the BOS the COA board's request to institute a system of staggered 3 year terms for new board members. The goals would be a system in which each member of the 9 person board serves a three year term which is renewable for an additional three year term. Board member terms would expire in a synchronized manner, allowing for two thirds or more of the board to remain in office, so that a cadre of solid, experienced members is available to orient and guide the new members.

Liaison Appointment

Barbara Willson will be liaison to a Healthy Communities-Health Department Group.

Slate of Officers for the coming year

The following individuals were unanimously elected to the respective positions:

Chair: Barbara Tallone
 Vice-chair: Charlie Aaronson
 Secretary: Sally Thompson
 Treasurer: Gena Manalan

Change in COA Board Meeting Day

There was an earnest review of the best day to hold the monthly COA board meeting. All members were polled. Meetings will continue to be on Mondays. It was decided to synchronize our meetings with the Friends of the COA which offers the possibilities of greater liaison attendance at our meetings and cross pollination of ideas.

Old Business:

The board determined there would be no meetings scheduled for summer 2009

New Business for the September 2009 meeting:

Friends of the COA

Follow up of staggered terms for COA board

Scheduling meetings for the next year

State and local budgets

Financial report

Board member assignments

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA Board is September 14, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Thompson, Secretary