

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 11/09/2009

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

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

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:45 PM on 11/09/2009 at the Senior Center.

Review of the Minutes:

The minutes of the Acton Council on Aging Board meeting for 10/19/09 were amended and accepted.

COA Chair Report

Barbara Tallone reviewed information for board members to sit at COA table at AB High School on November 14th, 2009 for the Wellness University. Jean Fleming volunteered her staff to create an informational poster for the table and offered advice for other table elements.

The BOS oversight meeting will be held November 16, 2009 at 8:15 pm. Barbara Tallone has prepared a statement and requested that COA board members attend as possible. Charlie Aaronson, Steve Baran, Pat Ellis, and Gena Manalan plan to attend. Jean Fleming will also attend.

Director's Report (Jean Fleming):

Directors have been asked to indicate places where their next year budget can be cut, should reductions in spending become necessary. Jean states her priority is to maintain personnel at the current level and look in other areas of her budget for potential cuts. Without the current level of staffing, the current level of services could not be maintained.

The Transportation Committee continues to meet regularly and is discussing the hire of a coordinator in a 20 hour per week position. They are also considering establishing a shuttle service to the train from an outlying parking lot. On demand transportation is being discussed as well. With neighboring towns interested in developing transportation, the possibility of regional transportation is raised.

Highlights for the coming month:

- November 9 – First of 3 sessions on Principles of Islam
- November 13 – Veterans Day breakfast with Band of Liberty performance to follow has more than 40 seniors signed up.

- November 14 – Wellness University
- November 17 - Thanksgiving dinner and the Friends of the COA craft fair from 11am to 3pm.
- November 18 – Fall prevention safety program
 - Trip to Smith College Museum of Art Chrysanthemum Show
- December 3 – Open House – 1pm-3pm. Representatives of various classes and programs will be available to answer questions about their offerings for interested seniors. Charlie Aaronson, Steve Baran, Mike Gowing, Barbara Tallone, and Paul Turner will attend as COA board members.
- December 10 - Holiday Tea – 2pm-3:30pm. Charlie Aaronson, Pat Ellis, Gena Manalan, Barbara Tallone, and Paul Turner have volunteered to help staff the event.

January 2010 – Driving program for seniors is planned. This program is the 6 hour AAA drivers education program that is provided in 2 three hour sessions.

The computer lab will move from the staff office area to a corner in the dining room which will free up the staff room for private consultation with seniors.

The Serve program developed by Acton Town employees has thus far raised over \$4000 to purchase grocery certificates and gasoline certificates to assist town residents in need.

Individuals with needs for home heating fuel assistance have been seeking help from Laura Ducharme and Carol Steiner.

Staggered Term Limits

Gena Manalan presented a statement for the board to review as a warrant article to address staggering the term limits for COA board members. Mike Gowing suggested she provide a statement of purpose to introduce the warrant. Gena will bring this statement to the next meeting.

Liaison to BOS

Mike Gowing reported that the finalized version of the Town of Acton Handbook developed by Paulina Knibbe is available and has offered to provide copies to the COA board. He offered suggestions to the COA board in its upcoming presentation to the BOS on November 16.

Liaison to Friends of the COA

Connie Ingram was not in attendance. No report.

Liaison to Healthy Communities-Health Department Group

Barbara Willson reported on the public forum held October 21 at the senior center to offer the public an opportunity to give input to the group. The meeting was well attended and the committee received much input. The Fall River Healthy Communities group, which is in its 5th year, reported on their community successes and challenges. The Acton committee has until September 2010 to put together a final plan. HOPE- Health, Outreach, Planning Essentials.

Liaison to the United Way

Paul Turner and Carol Steiner attended a United Way meeting on November 4. Paul invited the members of the United Way to the COA open house on December 3 to increase their awareness of the programs offered and supported by the Friends of the COA.

Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services

Charlie Aaronson announced there was no meeting of the Minuteman Senior Services for November.

Old Business:

Mike Gowing and Jean Fleming attended a three day Transportation Institute. Mike reported that grant money is available to support regional efforts. The Lowell Regional Transit Authority provides the Roadrunner van three days per week. A request is being made to add two more days to the schedule. Mike said the Transportation Institute helped with the development of a 90 day plan and a one year plan.

New Business

After January, Barbara Tallone plans to review additional liaison committee memberships.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Next Meeting

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Thompson, Secretary