

COA minutes for March 8, 2010

Barbara Tallone called the meeting to order at 3:55 pm.

Present: Barbara Tallone. Charlie Aaronson, Steve Baran, Jean Fleming, director, Mike Gowing. BOS liaison, Gena Manalan, Paul Turner, and Barbara Willson.

Barbara Tallone : Chair, Items of interest

Web sites exist which will allow us to track legislative bills as they make their way through committees. Steve Baran volunteered to track the various bills concerning seniors via the internet updates and report back status of each bill.

Certification of the Ethics class is required by all town employees and town committee personnel. On completion of the study, we are to take our certification to the town clerk before April 1, 2010.

Barbara provided a list of all the town committees for input as to where it might be advantageous with which to make contact. After review of the list, we think we have the necessary connections for what we are trying to do. We will need to revisit the list in May because many of the contacts are through Mike G. and he may be reassigned to other areas at the start of the fiscal new year.

Jean Fleming : Director

A lovely new area rug was purchased for the “living room” area from the Friends of the COA gift fund. On display is a fabulous collection of art work from individuals who are members of various ethnic groups of the community.

Jean reported that the exercise classes are full with waiting lists, as usual, even though additional classes have been added. Chair Yoga is starting next month which will be funded through the formula grant. The newsletter will start directing people to the recreation department and Littleton which does have openings in their senior exercise classes.

Jean enumerated several upcoming events, which are in the newsletter.

March 17, 2010 after the St. Patrick’s Day luncheon the candidates for the Board of Selectmen will be available to say a few words and take questions.

March 19, Jamie Eldridge will at the senior center after breakfast to talk and take questions.

Jean announced that a Health and Wellness coordinator has been hired. Liz Jewel will fill the position, funded by the formula grant. She will be trained and then lead a program called “A Matter of Balance”

Jean is participating in two endeavors associated with Emerson Hospital. One is the Geriatric Community Committee this year focusing on the “balance” program. The second committee is advisory to the Board of Directors. This committee will suggest programs needed in the community that Emerson might sponsor.

Mike Gowing – liaison BOS report

Senior work program has been expanded from a maximum of \$750 to \$1000 per year.

The nursing service is running a significant deficit this year. There is consideration to not fund and allow the other services to provide the necessary services.

The BOS received a letter from the MBTA stating that they are halting the train station development plans. There has been significant local resistant to the proposed plan.

Research found that there is about \$750,000 in unspent warrant articles, dated back decades,

Town Meeting is scheduled for April 5, 6, and 7

Charlie Aaronson – Vice Chair and Liaison to Minuteman Services

Minuteman Services is holding an auction on “www.biddingforgood.com” in April. They are looking for sponsorships and donations of goods and services.

There is still a wait list for home care in the area. We want people to advocate in the state budget for a “no wait” list budget figure for the 2011 budget.

Charlie handed out a 3 question survey on health care. Charlie asked the board to respond via email before the first on May.

Paul Turner – liaison to United Way

Paul reported some concern over the small amount of funding provided for seniors in the 211 programs. Perhaps some discussions with the legislators can help modify the ratios.

Barbara Willson – liaison to HOPE report

A decision has been made not to conduct a mail survey since the results seldom warrant the expense.

A program was held at the Chinese school to get information from this segment of our community

After the data from the survey are compiled, the committee will propose a plan of implementation to submit by the Sept deadline. It is hoped that if the proposed plan is accepted, funding for the next step will be forthcoming.

Meeting adjourned 5:36 pm

Submitted
Gena Manalan