

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 4/12/2010

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

Absent: Jim Papachristos; 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 4/12/2010 at the Senior Center.

Review of the Minutes- Gena Manalan

The minutes of the Acton Council on Aging Board meeting for 3/08/10 were accepted.

Doug Halley – Board of Health

The Acton Public Health Nursing service has been in existence for the past 87 years. It provided services for over 120 patients for an average of 65 days over the last 12 months. It provided over 2,500 hours of personal care to patients recovering from serious illness. A nurse is on call 24 hours per day. It provides free care to Acton residents whose health insurance does not cover home healthcare. Provided over 4,000 home visits last year. Provided 5,500 H1N1 and seasonal flu injections in the past 6 months. These services have been provided since 1923 without use of Acton resident tax dollars. These services keep residents of Acton in their homes and out of nursing homes.

There was a discussion about how to improve the referral opportunities from Emerson Hospital and Lahey Clinic.

There will be a collection of unused or outdated pharmaceuticals on Hazardous Waste Day.

Director's Report- Jean Fleming

The deadline for submissions for the May-June COA Newsletter is April 16.

Town Meeting approved the budget. COA has full funding for the printing budget and 2/3 funding for postage. Jean and COA staff plan to encourage seniors who regularly come to the senior center to pick up their copy of the newsletter. Seniors will continue to be encouraged to sign up for electronic delivery of the newsletter. And Jean plans to request \$2000 from the formula grant to cover the postage shortfall.

There is \$23,000 remaining from the warrant article for making senior center improvements. Jean and the staff have reviewed the list of priority items. Staff have been concerned that the video cameras for the front entrance will require a staff person to watch video screens to monitor them. Jean is concerned that staff do not have time to sit

and watch monitors and that seniors will feel the cameras are intrusive. She proposed safety call buttons in the bathrooms and in the dining room so that a senior who needs assistance can press a call button that will activate in the staff offices area. A discussion followed in which board members continued to express concern for staff and building safety after programs had ended but the building was still open. Placing a buzzer on the front door was discussed. Jean also discussed the staff preference for additional parking spaces to assist in accessibility of the senior center. Several board members expressed their concern that a better solution to accessibility was to use the transportation services developed by the town. Mike Gowing will bring more information about this to the next meeting. And Jean plans to find out how much 4-6 more parking spaces will cost.

Donations have been made to the Friends of the COA specifically to refurbish the pool table, re-level it, and purchase new cues and supplies.

Upcoming programs-

April 16 – Honoring Diversity Program breakfast – sponsored by the Friends of the COA and the United Way.

April 28 – Dessert reception – multi ethnic musical entertainment (Russian, Indian, Chinese)

April 12 – Chair Yoga classes begin.

Line Dancing classes have been very successful with 30-40 people attending the classes.

The Acton Pantry food drive will occur each month with food items specified by the pantry. For April the need is for canned fruit and 100% fruit juice.

May 4 – A Matter of Balance classes begin.

June 10 – Volunteer appreciation day. More to come about this in future meetings.

Treasurer's Report – Gena Manalan

We are three quarters of the way through the year and have spent only 66% of the budget. We are well within our budget and should finish the year in good stead. A table of the actual budget figures per quarter was provided.

Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services- Charlie Aaronson

Make a bid for health aging online from May 3-16. Go to www.biddingforgood.com for tickets to sports and theatre events, gifts certificates for restaurants and shopping, vacation options, spa treatments and more. They continue to seek donations to the on line auction.

Liaison to the United Way- Paul Turner

May 6 is the United Way Community Forum at the Boxborough Library.

Liaison to Healthy Communities-Health Department Group-Barbara Willson

HOPE survey phase is completed with over 800 surveys completed and tabulated. The three top areas Acton residents want the committee to focus on are:

- Physical wellbeing
- Transportation
- Environmental Awareness

April 28 at 7pm there will be a public forum with focus group formats at the Parker Damon Building cafeteria.

Liaison to Friends of the COA

Connie Ingram was not in attendance. Jean Fleming said that the Friends sent an appeal letter to local businesses. Thus far this year through the annual appeal, the Friends have raised \$11,000 – the highest in the Friends history.

It was also noted that a small percentage of the seniors contribute to the Friends. There is an interest in expanding the percentage of seniors who contribute. A discussion ensued about strategies.

Liaison to BOS- Mike Gowing

Summary of the Town Meeting:

Town budget was approved unanimously. 2011 there will be a 1.97% tax increase, 2012 and 2013 there will be a 2.3% tax increase.

The town has received a AAA Bond rating from Standard and Poors.

The Acton Public Health Nursing Service will continue through 2010. The BOS will look at expenses and revenue processes.

The community shuttle grant match was funded for year two. The request for \$50,000 from taxation was approved for the van budget. The actual budget is more than that and is supported by LRTA funds, fares, and fund balance.

The Senior Work Program was reauthorized and increased from \$750 to \$1000 per person.

Membership term for the COA has been amended to three years.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA Board is May 10, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Thompson, Secretary