

Acton Council On Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 3/10/2008

Present: Steve Baran, Chair; Gena Manalan, Vice-Chair; Mike Gowing, Secretary; Pat Ellis; Paul Turner; Jean Fleming, Director; Barbara Tallone; Paulina Knibbe, B.O.S.; Suzanne Brozek, Liaison, Minuteman Senior Services; Sue Chase & Connie Ingram, co-chairs of the Friends of the COA

Absent: Police Liaison; Anita Dodson; Ed Carell, Treasurer; Barbara Cantrill; William Ely; Sally Thompson

Call to Order:

Steve Baran called the meeting to order at 3:45 PM on 3/10/2008 at the Senior Center.

Minutes of 12/15/07:

The February minutes were not accepted without corrections – several members hadn't received them to review. Mike Gowing will retransmit them to all for review/correction and submit them to the town when approved.

Joke of the month – Gena Manalan

Financial Report:

Jean Fleming reported on an opening balance at 3/10/2008 of \$8,975 and non-personnel expenditures of \$1,833 for a closing balance of \$7,142.

Director's Report:

Jean Fleming reported that any input to the April newsletter would need to be in by end of week. She indicated that the newsletter has the following on its calendar:

- Income tax prep appointments continue
- The "St. Patty's day" luncheon and meeting the selectmen candidates March 12th
- COA breakfast Friday morning Mar 14
- Elder abuse hearing will be held at Acton Library 11:30am to 1pm Friday, March 14th.
- April 11th – Lifecare of Acton will have a speaker to discuss the Comprehensive Community Plan for Acton with Acton seniors.
- Dessert and coffee with the Legislators will be held on April 15th
- A "famous trials" 4-part series begins on April 7th
- Program on the Holocaust will be held Wednesday evening, March 19th, 7:00 – 8:30 PM
- Chinese lunch will be held on Apr. 11th, hosted by the Friends of the COA.
- Pam Resor will hold her annual conference in Marlboro, Mass on Apr. 24th

The Board of Health (in conjunction with Emerson Hospital) will be sponsoring "Wellness University" April 26th. Can we have COA Board members staff a table?

Friends of the COA

Sue Chase discussed new ways to raise funds for the COA. She indicated that she had a company that would take older digital cameras, cell phones, electronic games, etc. and convert them to cash. She indicated that they would have a demo at Wellness Univ. of knitting and crocheting.

Report on the Steering Committee progress:

Paulina Knibbe reported on the status of the Senior Center Expansion Steering Committee (Scex) and what the next steps will be. She discussed the partnering offers that are currently being entertained with Michael Rosenfeld and the architectural firm of OMR in West Acton village and how he would like to build a business area including a theater, condos, businesses and the potential to include the senior center (the project would be sewer contingent to work). Next was a partnering opportunity with a local resident who wished to build a theater (with OMR or not) that could, presumably, work in conjunction with a new senior center for shared space as the theater would typically be nights/weekends and the senior center would be weekdays.

Senior Center visiting comm., presented by Barb Tallone, indicated that the visits to other senior centers was complete and that an extensive spreadsheet comparing centers was presented to the steering committee.

Senior center site selection comm. was presented by Mike Gowing and the possible town-owned sites had been winnowed to ten (from 60) and that it would be reduced to 3-5 selections to be presented to the steering committee by Wednesday, Mar. 12th.

Gena Manalan, representing the function committee, presented what the plans were for town meeting with the creation of a survey and questionnaire to be handed out and collected at the town meeting to raise awareness and get additional input for function planning in the future.

Legislative Update:

Pat informed us that the tax bill has passed the house vote and now must go on to the senate for approval/change. It includes a “senior exclusion from overrides” provision that would make it more likely for seniors to vote **for** tax overrides (generally for schools) because they wouldn’t be affected. The thinking was that it would be easier to pass them by towns as needed. It was noted that a weaker version of the Home Rule Petition was submitted by the house instead of what the town submitted.

Pat encouraged attendance at the hearing on Protective Services/ Elder Abuse, which will be held by Rep. Jamie Eldridge this Friday at 11:30 in the Acton Memorial Library.

Minuteman Services:

Suzanne presented Minuteman’s efforts to get additional recognition for all of the things that Minuteman Senior Services provides (that often are assumed to be town functions). She mentioned that protective services has the lowest overall budget and encouraged going to the meeting at the library and to bring it up with Pam Resor during the Apr. 24th conference.

New Business: Steve Baran indicated that Barbara Cantrill was having a difficult time with recovery from her accident and was going to have to resign from the COA Board. Gena offered to connect up with her to resume the issue of elder dental services that she had been championing. He also mentioned he was going to check on Anita Dodson as she hadn’t been to meetings and hadn’t contacted anyone.

Trip Planning:

Mike Gowing reviewed what had been discussed on the trip planning committee for the FOCO. The Friends of the COA had lost money on the last few trips and things under consideration were smaller busses (in order to fill them up) and limo services for fewer than 10 person trips. It was recommended that they purchase some of the timers to hand to trip participants when going to large, separate events like the MFA trip, that would go off when they needed to reconvene for the trip back to the senior center.

Old Business: None

The “joke of the month” will rotate to Paul for the April meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the COA Board will be scheduled at 3:45 PM on Monday, April 14th, 2008 at the Senior Center

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Gowing
Secretary

