

Extra Information
6/14/07
#5

Comments to BOS at their oversight meeting on Monday, June 4 at 7:45 p.m.

Mr. Chairman:

My name is Steve Baran, and I chair the board of the Acton Council on Aging. Gena Manalan is our Vice Chairman. Some of our Board members are here tonight. I will ask them to stand along with Gena.

We are ably supported by Jean Fleming, the COA Director, and her very competent and productive staff, and the Friends of the Council on Aging who implement the COA mission by providing financial support.

The purpose of our being here this evening is to respond to your request to report on a couple of issues of importance: our needs assessment survey and the Senior Center feasibility study.

Survey: The needs assessment survey design incorporated questions from our board and staff and from other groups serving the senior population – the Public Health Nursing Service, the Friends of the Council on Aging, the Recreation Department, and Board of Selectmen. A draft version of the results is being reviewed by the Board, and we look forward to sharing results with you and the rest of the community before long.

The survey will point the way toward further program planning, outreach and public relations activities during this coming year. Indeed, many of the survey findings are already being implemented:

- Classes in beginning Spanish, German opera and classical music
- A pilot program to assess the needs of seniors in Acton subsidized housing
- Newsletters sent by email only rather than by regular mail to those requesting it
- New strategies for increasing our lunchtime meal site participation

Senior Center Feasibility Study: The current site is operating at full capacity. Lack of sufficient parking and indoor space continues to constrain the number and types of programs we can offer. With a maximum of 32 level parking spaces, safety and accessibility become particularly acute in the winter months,

In constructing a rationale for requesting the feasibility study, we were struck by the demographics driving it: From a baseline of 2,000+ seniors in 1994, the year the Senior Center was built; we have grown to 3,086 and are projecting 3,380 seniors by 2,010, a 59% increase from when the Senior Center opened.¹

¹ Town of Acton census and Mass. Institute of Social and Economic Research

We would like to participate in the feasibility study. In addition to the parking issue, there are particular areas of concern we would like to see addressed including:

- A larger entrance/reception area allowing better flow to office and program areas
- Office space affording privacy for sensitive consultations, for example, when financial disclosures are made while applying for fuel or other types of assistance.
- Exercise space with appropriate flooring for meeting safety concerns.
- Space for durable medical equipment (walkers, commodes and shower chairs) stored in basement. Current access through exterior bulkhead doors is unsafe, especially in the winter months - adequate storage space on the first floor as well

In conclusion, I would like to express our commitment to make our efforts with and on behalf of seniors continue to be part of a community-wide effort. This is reflected in our survey design which considered the interests of community stakeholders. *Wellness University* is another example. This recent COA joint educational project with the Board of Health, Public Health Nursing Service, Recreation Department, and Emerson Hospital addressed the health and wellness needs of those aged 50 and older. Thus, we are letting the baby boomer generation know that we are prepared to welcome them when they become 60.

Thank you for your earnest attention.

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6/04/07
COA #5

How we've done it.....

This great variety of classes and programs is only possible through the ongoing support of our generous donors.

ANNUAL APPEAL to ACTON SENIORS

\$6705 150 gifts

THE UNITED WAY OF ACTON AND BOXBOROUGH

\$2000

APPEAL TO ACTON BUSINESSES

\$1400

For the first time this year, we sent an appeal letter to Acton businesses. We gratefully acknowledge the following Acton businesses for their generous support of our work on behalf of Acton seniors:

Gallant Insurance Agency, Inc.
AAA Southern New England
Roche Brothers

Acton Monument Co., Inc
Sorrento's Pizzeria
Worker's Credit Union
Village Hair Stylist

Acton Funeral Home
Middlesex Savings Bank
Acton Pharmacy
Richard P. O'Brien, Jr.

Acton Ford, Inc.

CHURCHES and CIVIC GROUPS

\$1250

Acton Congregational Church Acton Lions Club

ACTON SENIOR QUILTERS and the ONE-STROKE PAINTING CLASSES

\$ 1069 in raffle ticket sales of quilt, mailbox and slate

We send our thanks to all who helped support our work, most especially to you who responded generously to our appeal to Acton's seniors. As you can see, this is the largest single source of our income. If you have not yet made your gift, please know that the need is ongoing as we now plan for a wide variety of offerings for the fall. Please make your tax-deductible gift to: Friends of the Acton COA and send it to: Friends of the Acton COA; PO Box 2006; Acton, MA 01720-6006. Thank you.

Friends of the Acton Council on Aging Board:

Elaine Giberti, President; Connie Ingram, Vice-President; Anne Norsworthy, Secretary; Lynne Osborn, Treasurer; Ruth Regan, Volunteer Coordinator; Members at Large: Angie Conn, Carol Lake, Joan McKenzie, Rose Meslener, Jean Warren, Norma Wu

Friends of the Acton Council on Aging Year-end Report

June 30 marks the end of our fiscal year and we are initiating an annual report which we will distribute with the June issue of the Acton Senior Newsletter. We hope this will let all of you get to know us and our work better.

What we've done this year.....

CLASSES (we fully fund each of the following classes)

Watercolor
Water Media
One-Stroke Painting
Opera
French
Spanish
Bridge
Balance
Genealogy
Cooking for One
Pool/Billiards
Great Religions of the World
Compare and Contrast: Classical Composers

PROGRAMS (we fully or partially fund each of these programs)

Men's and Women's Breakfasts
Crafts Workshops
Holiday Tea
Volunteer Appreciation Program
Indian Luncheon and Cultural Program
Chinese Luncheon and Cultural Program

TRIPS (we underwrite a portion of each trip)

Newport Rail and Sail
Lowell Spinners
Culinary Archives Museum
Museum of Lighthouse History
BSO Rehearsals
Edaville R.R.
R.I. Flower Show
Wright Museum
Tall Ships