

Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 3/09/2009

Present: Stephen Baran, Chair; Mike Gowing, Vice-Chair; Sally Thompson, Secretary; Barbara Tallone, Treasurer; Gena Manalan; Paul Turner; Jean Fleming, Director; Jim Papachristos, Friends of the COA; Paulina Knibbe, Liaison Board of Selectman; Charlie Aaronson, Senior Center Expansion Committee.

Absent: Anita Dodson; Pat Ellis; Connie Ingram, President, Friends of the COA; Detective Dan Silva, Liaison Police Department.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:45 PM on 03/09/2009 at the Senior Center by Steve Baran.

Review of the Minutes:

The minutes of the Acton Council on Aging Board meeting for 02/09/09 were accepted.

Financial Report:

Barbara Tallone read the financial report of the non-personnel budget. There was an opening balance of \$11,261 and a closing balance of \$10,002. There was a total of \$1259 in expenses for the month (including: program supplies, travel, office supplies, newsletter printing and postage).

Director's Report:

Jean Fleming reported on several new programs being offered at the Senior Center including Famous Elections and wii games on the large screen TV.

The Secret Life of Bees was shown on the large screen TV to about 25 attendees.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra trip was cancelled due to insufficient interest.

A trip to the Russian Icon Museum in Clinton, MA has been scheduled. A smaller bus has been arranged for this trip.

March 15th is the New England Boiled Dinner which is always well attended.

The two candidates for the Board of Selectman position, Mike Gowing and Clint Seward, will attend the March 17th Saint Patrick's Day luncheon at the Senior Center.

April 6 is Red Sox opening day with the large TV reserved for 2pm sports fans.

Monday April 27 is the Town of Acton employee sponsored senior appreciation dinner.

The new part time van driver is Priscilla Cotter. She drives Monday through Wednesday. Ron continues to drive for 2 days per week, Thursday and Friday.

The April COA Newsletter is in the works. The newsletter will be published monthly until the three month summer edition.

The COA Directors from the Minuteman region have a meeting with the respective COA board of directors on Friday March 20. The meeting will be held at the Bedford Senior Center from 9:15am to 10:30am. Interested board members can contact Jean Fleming.

Transportation Report:

Jean Fleming and the COA staff are continuing to meet with the Acton Social Worker and other interested individuals of the Acton Transportation Advisory Committee to discuss implementation of a Taxi Voucher Program.

Safety Net:

Jean Fleming reported on the services and organizations that comprise a safety net for Acton residents. Included in this network are:

SMOC – South Middlesex Opportunity Council- a multi-service agency located in Framingham that does training and processing of fuel assistance applications. Acton COA staff have completed 38 applications, including 5 new senior applications and 6 re-applications. It is anticipated that the new town social worker will help with the non-seniors requesting assistance in the future.

Salvation Army

Friends Emergency Fuel Fund

Food Stamps

Food Pantry

Friend in Need

Emergency Management Team – help with plowing, shoveling

The Safety Sand program has been very successful, serving 60 Acton seniors.

Minuteman Services

Elder Protection Services

Senior Center Improvements:

The Board of Selectmen has designated \$36,000 in the upcoming town budget for improvements to the Senior Center. The COA board expresses its appreciation to staff and volunteers who have worked to determine what modifications to the Senior Center can be recommended. The list below is not all inclusive.

1. New flooring for the living room.
2. Permanent partitions in the dining room.
3. Senior computer corner with wireless internet access.
4. Windows in swinging doors and exterior office door.
5. Soundproof flexible partition in living room.
6. Video cameras in entry way/ living room/ dining room.
7. Enclosed walkway connecting living and dining rooms.
8. Shed entrance to bulkhead.
9. Carpeting in office area.
10. Parking space expansion.

Maintenance issues include:

1. Fix windows so they open and close easily.
2. Install hand railing to basement.
3. Replace some dining room tiles.

Board Membership:

Ed Carell and Bill Ely have resigned from the COA board. We are actively recruiting new members to our board. We still do not have a Liaison with Minuteman Services. Stephen Baran and Mike Gowing attended the volunteer job fair on February 11th. Our board is looking for members with an interest in an additional liaison position. Charlie Aaronson and Jim Papachristos were introduced to our board. They have expressed an interest in becoming members.

Old Business:

The COA board will focus its priorities for the spring on the improvement and maintenance projects necessary at the Senior Center

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the COA Board is April 13, 2009 at 3:45p.m. at the Senior Center.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sally Thompson, Secretary