



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Council on Aging
SENIOR CENTER

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Caryl Leslie Fox
Director of Senior Services

Patricia Gold, *Chairperson*

Minutes of C.O.A. Board Meeting – October 13, 2010

Members present: Pat Gold, Betty Finnell, Will Twombly, Mary Keenan, Dottie Fleming, and Mike Donham.

Members Excused Absence: Jane Stadolnik and Hagop Sarkissian.

Staff members present: Caryl Fox, Kathleen Wolf, Debbie Dunn, and Laura Gold.

Audience Present: Visiting scholar from Harvard University.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Pat Gold.

1. The Board read the September meeting minutes. Will Twombly made a motion to approve the minutes and Mary Keenan seconded. Passed.
2. Financial Statements:

Board members reviewed the financial statements. Caryl Fox noted that the electricity line item is high due to the hot summer and the increased cost of electricity. A portion of the program supplies line item was used for the senior parking stickers and receipt books. Emergency assistance funds have been heavily used. Salvation Army emergency help will be available later this month. The Project Bread grant for the Food Pantry has been received.
3. Food Pantry Update

Caryl Fox reported that the new coordinator, Alfredo Bartolozzi, started work on September 20, 2010. He has been oriented to the Pantry by Caryl Fox and the Pantry volunteers and is doing very well.

Will Twombly reported on potential use of the Boston Food Bank for the Pantry. He has spoken with Deb Kaup about the issue and it was decided that having to pick-up the food in Boston could be difficult. The funds that have been raised for the Pantry have made it possible to use a wholesale vendor. The plan is to continue fund-raising for money and for food from the community.
4. Building Repair:

At the beginning of this month, the Senior Center experienced leakage from the roof around the front door and inside of the doorway. DPW Superintendent, Gerry Mee, and School Maintenance Supervisor, Jay Francione, were very helpful. The problem has been evaluated, a contractor chosen, and repairs to the roof and front door will be made shortly.
5. Dealing with Differences:

Caryl Fox talked about our Senior Center brochure, which has been translated into Armenian (by Hagop Sarkissian) and into Russian by a person referred to us by Project Literacy. Possible translation into other languages, including Chinese was discussed.

Pat Gold reported on a screening of a new documentary film called "Gen Silent". It was presented by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on Aging at a conference she attended.

The film interviewed current older LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered) adults who have encountered societal difficulties as they age. Some individuals may not be open about their identity and some may encounter discrimination. Loneliness, depression, and even suicide can result. The group discussed possible ways that we can be helpful to other older LGBT in the community in Watertown. A support group, facilitated by Laura Gold, was among the ideas. The group would meet outside of the Senior Center.

6. MA Referendum Question # 3 – Discussion:

Question 3, which is on the November 2, 2010 state ballot, would return MA sales tax to 3% from its current 6.25% effective January 1, 2010. If it passes, it is estimated that state government services would be cut as well as the local aid, which helps to fund Water-town government services. The Watertown Town Council recently voted a recommended "No" vote.

7. Will Twombly discussed the program for seniors at the Greek Orthodox Church, which is funded by the Marshall Home Fund. He suggested that Caryl Fox contact coordinator, Marion Autges, with possible speaker and program ideas. Ms. Fox said she met with her in July but will call her again to see how the Senior Center may be helpful.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox