



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 –December 8, 2010

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

Members Excused Absence: Mary Keenan and Jane Stadolnik.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm by Chairperson Pat Gold.

1. The November minutes were read by Board members. Mike Donham made a motion to approve the minutes and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
2. Financial Statements:
Caryl Fox highlighted areas of the November statements. Ms. Fox noted that the Food Pantry is receiving food and monetary donations for the holidays and that the total in the Revolving Fund account is on par with last year. Organizations, businesses, and individuals continue to be generous. Donations to the Senior Center Revolving Fund have been made recently in memory of a senior participant and in memory of a long-time helper.
3. Senior Transportation:
Caryl Fox and the Town Manager will be meeting with Belmont, Lexington, and Arlington at the request of the Belmont Town Manager to look into what would be involved in sharing a vehicle or transportation in general. When Ms. Fox met with the Town Manager on December 6, 2010, he stated that he is aware of the importance of the shopping bus trips for Watertown seniors. Our local medical rides, through vendor Busy Bee, are up slightly this year. More taxi rides have been requested this year, primarily for unexpected medical appointments, or, when the shopping bus cannot run. Thanks to the Marshall Home Fund.
4. Capital Improvements:
Caryl Fox submitted a draft of potential capital improvements for the Senior Center in fiscal years 2012 through 2017. Improvements requested over those years include new tables and chairs, painting, and a new roof. Board members noted that when the roofing is done, installation of a solar panel should be investigated, as it would improve energy efficiency in the building. The draft was submitted to the Town Manager, who can make changes before it goes to the Town Council.
5. A portable ramp is available in Newton. It may be available for use in other Towns.
6. Before the next election, staff will check with candidates and the Democratic and Republican Town Committees requesting rides to the polls for seniors who need them. Handicapped signage at the Cuniff School will be checked into with John Flynn, Town Clerk.

7. Caryl Fox was asked how the Food Pantry is doing under the new coordinator. Ms. Fox explained that Alfredo Bartolozzi is enjoying his job and has learned it quickly. He is respected by the volunteers and has helped the Pantry through his community connections. It was noted that getting food through Project Bread would be a problem because of the need to pick it up by truck and because it would mean less food for the St. Patrick's Food Pantry. A monetary grant from Project Bread is applied for and awarded every year.
8. There are individuals on a list who are available to negotiate fees for seniors needing snow shoveling. More participants are always welcome.
9. A new directory of senior services will need to be done as we are out of the four thousand copies from 2004. We will look to streamline content and minimize unnecessary paper usage and contain costs. The Friends of the COA has offered to fund this project.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox