



# Watertown Council on Aging

SENIOR CENTER  
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PATRICIA GOLD, *Chairperson*

CARYL LESLIE FOX  
*Director of Senior Services*

## Minutes of COA Board Meeting - November 9, 2011

Members present: Dottie Fleming, Will Twombly, Hagop Sarkissian, Mike Donham, and V.V. Martin.

Member excused absence: Pat Gold and Mary Keenan.

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Board member, Dottie Fleming.

### 1. Minutes of Last Board Meeting:

The minutes of the October meeting were read by Board members. VV Martin made a motion to approve the minutes and Mike Donham seconded. Passed.

### 2. Financial Statements:

Caryl Fox highlighted the October financial statements. She noted that the electric line item continues to remain high and that the situation was brought to the attention of the firm that performed an energy audit of all the Town buildings last spring. The Chairperson of the COA Board spoke at the Town Council meeting public forum and requested that the results of the study pertaining to the Senior Center be made available when they are known. Ms. Fox also sent a letter on October 21, 2011 to the Town Manager requesting this information.

### 3. Flu Shot Update:

The Health Department held clinics here on October 6, 2011 and November 2, 2011. More than one hundred and eighty people received the vaccine here. During the second session, the Health Department conducted an emergency preparedness drill as part of the event.

### 4. Senior Center Parties Update:

Caryl Fox talked about the success of recent parties and trips, as measured by the pleasure that people reported who attended. Both kinds of events provide opportunities for people to get out of routines and to socialize with old and new friends. Socialization continues to be noted to be of importance in healthy aging studies.

### 5. MBTA Passes and the RIDE Update:

The Watertown Senior Center was the only community that requested that the MBTA come to us to issue new and renewal senior Charlie Card passes. More than one hundred and forty people came and they were appreciative that they didn't have to go into Boston.

The MBTA is adhering more strictly to their qualification that physicians need to state that someone is unable to take public transportation in order to get the RIDE.

### 6. Senior Parking Permit Update:

During the first year of the senior parking permit, three hundred and fifty-four Watertown seniors signed up for the sticker. Most opted for two years of coverage. We have begun a change-over to an orange card permit in cooperation with the Police Department. Everyone will be transferred to the orange card by November 2012.

Board member, Mike Donham, suggested that the program should be publicized again so that more people are aware of this program.

7. Medicare and SHINE Update:

The deadline for making changes in Medicare supplements is December 7, 2011. Our SHINE worker is available on Tuesday mornings by appointment to help people evaluate their options. We will refer people who are unable to get appointments to the regional and Boston offices.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox