



TOWN OF WATERTOWN
Council on Aging
SENIOR CENTER

31 MARSHALL STREET
WATERTOWN, MASS. 02472-3403
TELEPHONE: (617) 972-6490
FAX: (617) 972-6493
www.watertown-ma.gov

Caryl Leslie Fox
Director of Senior Services

Patricia Gold, Chairperson

Minutes of COA Board Meeting- October 10, 2012

Members present: Pat Gold, Mary Keenan, Will Twombly, Hagop Sarkissian, V.V. Martin, Dorothy Brown, and Carol Airasian.

Member excused absence: Mike Donham.

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

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

1. The September Board minutes were read by Board members. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes and Hagop Sarkissian seconded. Passed.

2. Financial Statements:

The line items are all fiscally solid for this point in the FY '13 budget. The emergency assistance line item will be closely monitored.

3. Property Tax Work-off Project:

The COA administers this program which allows seniors who own their own houses to work ninety-four hours for a participating department in exchange for seven hundred and fifty dollars off of their real estate tax bill. Individuals must have the skills that a department is requiring. Seniors who are low income and have never participated in the program before are given priority. Caryl Fox spoke to Department Heads and distributed forms to them in September. Applications are available for interested seniors. Ms. Fox will interview in November. Most people start in January.

4. Fuel Assistance Application Changes:

As in previous years, Caryl Fox and Laura Gold will be assisting seniors who are applying for fuel help for the first time. Ms. Gold also makes home visits if needed. This year, the program guidelines require more proof of eligibility from applicants. Some forms are required to be notarized. It will be difficult for some people to obtain all the documentation.

5. SHINE Program:

Open enrollment for supplemental coverage to Medicare is October 15 to December 7, 2012. During this period, our SHINE counselor Jean Mitchell will be increasing from three appointments per week to four. When all the appointment slots are filled, people will be able to

call the regional office in Framingham for telephone assistance. On November 7, 2012, Ms. Mitchell will be lecturing on the SHINE program and supplemental Medicare program options.

6. Senior Parking Permits:

More than four hundred Watertown seniors have signed up for this program since it began two years ago. Permits allow seniors to park at the two hour meters behind main public library and CVS, as well as the small lot off of Wells Ave. People are very appreciative of this Town discount.

7. Open Meeting Law:

A meeting will be held with updated training and information on the Open Meeting Law. The session will be on Thursday, November 8, 2012 at 7:00 pm at the Middle School. COA Board members are encouraged to attend. For those who can't make the meeting, Caryl Fox will bring back information.

8. Snow Shoveling Project:

Town Councilor, Ken Woodland, is continuing to work on setting up a snow shoveling program for Watertown seniors using volunteers. Because he has decided to create a non-profit corporation for this project, he doesn't expect it will be ready for this coming winter. The Senior Center continues to have a short list of individuals who do snow shoveling or plowing for a fee. They are not interviewed or recommended by the Center.

9. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox