

Watertown Council on Aging

SENIOR CENTER

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PATRICIA GOLD, Chairperson

CARYL LESLIE FOX

MARIE MORELLO, Vice-Chairperson

Director of Senior Services

Minutes of C.O.A. Board Meeting – May 9, 2007

Present: Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Barbara Zenn Rediker, Betty Finnell, Dottie Fleming, and Mary Keenan.

Members Excused Absence: Chris Hursh, Jane Stadolnik, and Will Twombly.

1. The meeting was called to order at five thirty by Chairperson Pat Gold.
2. The minutes of the April meeting were read by Board members. Barbara Zenn Rediker made a motion to approve the minutes and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

Board members reviewed the financial statements for the previous month. A transfer will be made for the medical transportation line item. Caryl Fox assured Board members that she will make sure those who need help from the emergency assistance line item will receive it. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Marie Morello seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. A grant letter award from the Marshall Home Fund was received.

b. Information is available to seniors about a Home Modifications Loan Program funded through Massachusetts Rehabilitation.

c. Easter Seals sent out material concerning their assistive technology loan project.

d. Brochures are available at the Center that explains the role of Probate Court.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox has been working on the EOEA FY '08 Formula Grant application. The Town Hall Union, to which five COA staff belongs, has recently signed a new contract. The new conference room furniture has arrived. We now have a substitute SHINE counselor while our regular volunteer is out on leave. The Registry of Motor Vehicles gave an excellent talk on safe driving tips for older adults. Seniors who waited a long time for the Mellowtones to return are very pleased with the new leader. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

The goals of the Massachusetts Home Care association (of which Springwell is a member) is for elder to be in the least restrictive setting at the highest level of functioning for as long as possible. Springwell is doing an assessment of mental health resources.

b. Yard Sale Update:

In addition to making the most money for the Revolving Fund ever (\$2,100), it is clear that both volunteers and attendees had a wonderful time. The Yard Sale is a real community, social event.

c. Volunteer Award Nominee Update:

Board members decided that the award will go to Michael Donham, who has been the volunteer leader for Faire in the Square for many years.

d. FY '08 Budget Update:

All of the COA union employees were given a series of raises, retroactive to FY '06 through the new union contract. The employee portion of health insurance coverage went from ten percent to twenty percent. The Town Manager has once again put ten thousand dollars in the budget for Senior Center furnishings. Outside painting of the building is covered separately under the Town's Capital Improvement budget.

7. New Business:

a. Proposition Two and a Half Exemption for the Elderly Discussion:

Under a proposed bill, seniors over age sixty-five whose real estate tax is more than fifteen percent of their total income would not have to pay a

property tax increase if an override was passed. Board members discussed the pros and cons of this concept.

b. Acknowledgment:

Board member Betty Finnell asked that the Board acknowledge the hard work of Food Pantry coordinator, Deb Kaup. Ms. Finnell has recently visited the Food Pantry. The Board asked that the Friends of the COA get a book store gift certificate in appreciation.

c. Emergency Preparedness:

It was asked that Emergency Preparedness for seniors, including information about emergency kits be made available through the Senior Center.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox