

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 – October 10, 2007

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

Members Excused Absence: Jane Stadolnik and Chris Hursh.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold.
2. The minutes of the last meeting were read by board members. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes and Marie Morello seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

The financial statements were reviewed. Caryl Fox noted that the corrections for the gas and electric line items for July and August were included, as well as up to date September information. The Marshall Fund Taxi Grant will be included in the monthly statements next month. Will Twombly made a motion to approve the statements and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. A thank you note for flowers was received from Debbie Dunn.

b. Project Bread awarded a seven thousand seven hundred dollar grant to the Watertown Food Panty.

c. A letter from Busy Bee stated that they will now only require two days notice, rather than three days.

d. Art Contest and Exhibit for seniors at the Commonwealth Museum. Two winners from Watertown.

e. Springwell is having an open house in Weston on November 14, 2007.

5. Staff Reports:

Property tax work-off forms have been distributed to Town departments and to interested applicants. Lectures have included emergency preparedness, probate court information, and a pharmacist who spoke on drug interaction and other concerns. It was noted that Laura Gold is handling some complicated situations – many involved hoarding. Board members discussed that this is being seen as an increasing problem among seniors, but it often has its origin in loss of energy and poor eyesight, rather than as a mental health issue. A lecture on clutter was suggested. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

Springwell received grant funding to develop a group home in one of its eight towns for people who are nursing home eligible. The agency has looked into the possibility of developing the Phillips Church property with the Watertown Housing Authority. Springwell is serving individuals who are more frail than before and also some consumers with challenging behaviors.

b. EOEY FY '08 Formula Grant Update:

Towns were given a small increase in their FY '08 Grants and Watertown will receive an additional one thousand three hundred and twenty-nine dollars. The amount of forty-three thousand one hundred and ninety-three will go towards the part-time salaries of the program coordinator, principal clerk, case worker, and driver.

c. Senior Center Improvements Update:

Silva Painting has been chosen for exterior painting. This work is scheduled to be done this fall. An engineering firm chosen by the Town will be evaluating our HVAC system at the Senior Center and have been given blueprints.

d. Faire in the Square Update:

Although the COA table was in the very back of the tent, we still had more than one hundred people visit us. It was noted that some people avoid the non-profit agency tent.

7. New Business:

a. Summer Quarterly Attendance Numbers:

The line dancing class experienced increased attendance when former instructor, Manny Carrera, returned to teach the class. Attendance of most of the groups that ran through the summer months remained stable. In September, all activities return.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox