

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 – December 12, 2007

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

Members Excused Absence: Mary Keenan, Chris Hursh, and Will Twombly.

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. Marie Morello made a motion to accept the minutes and Barbara Zenn Rediker seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:
Board members reviewed all of the financial statements for November including the Marshall Home Fund grant. Barbara Zenn Rediker made a motion to approve the reports and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. A thank you note from Jane Stadolnik was received.
 - b. Information is available on the Citizen Energy Oil Program.
 - c. Deb Kaup had a flyer on a free medical clinic in Waltham translated into three languages.

d. Springwell will have a “listening session”, open to people in the eight towns it serves, for those interested in setting up a Beacon Hill Village type of model.

e. Prescription Advantage notified people that a small number of their members were victims of attempted identity theft.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox highlighted the three staff reports. The book, magazine, and yarn donation program continues to be an important way for the community to contribute to the Center. The Food Pantry is in the midst of its busy season and Deb Kaup is working with food donations, fundraising, and holiday extras for Pantry clients. Senior Center lectures this month included real estate issues and hearing loss. The second flu shot session was held on November 28, 2007. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

The agency is focusing on providing more choices for people who need home care services so they are more in control of their own care. Pat Gold attended a meeting that introduced Mike Festa, the new EOEIA secretary to the Springwell area. Ms. Gold described the meeting as very positive and the new Secretary as committed to working on senior issues and concerns.

b. Property Tax Work-off Program Update:

Caryl Fox interviewed candidates and finalized some of the placements. Everyone chosen this year will be doing it for the first time.

c. Fuel Assistance and Emergency Assistance Update:

Caryl Fox and Laura Gold are helping seniors with Fuel Assistance applications and Watertown adults with emergency assistance, generally in the form of payment towards a utility bill. Energy costs are high and we are trying to keep people from “falling through the cracks.”

7. New Business:

a. Winter Snow Policy:

Caryl Fox reviewed the Center guidelines for cancellation of classes and activities due to bad weather. When Watertown schools are closed, there are no activities and the shopping bus doesn't run. If schools open late, there are no morning events or morning shopping run. Seniors are reminded to be careful and to use their own judgment when deciding whether to come to the Center in stormy or icy weather.

Staff members are always present at the Center, even when there are no activities and are available for snow shoveling and other I & R inquiries on the phone or at the Center.

b. Taxi Grant:

It was suggested that we emphasize in our publicity that the Taxi Grant is supplemental to existing transportation services and can be used in a non-emergency situation.

c. There was a general discussion on what adaptations and services are needed for people to remain in their own homes. It is anticipated that other models besides the Beacon Hill Village one may work better in different communities.

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

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox