

# 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 – September 5, 2007**

Present: Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Betty Finnell, Mary Keenan, Jane Stadolnik, Dottie Fleming, and Will Twombly.

Members Excused Absence: Barbara Zenn Rediker and Chris Hursh.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold.
2. Board members read the minutes of the previous meeting. A correction was noted. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Will Twombly seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

Board members reviewed the monthly statements. There was a question about the gas line item, which seemed too high for this time of year and the electric too low. Caryl Fox will review the utility line items with Debbie Dunn for the next Board meeting. Marie Morello made a motion to approve the statements and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
  - a. A thank you note was received by Michael Donhan, this year's recipient of the community service award.

b. A thank you note was sent by Jane Stadolnik for flowers she received from the Friends.

c. The new fuel assistance guidelines for this year are now available.

d. There is proposed state legislation to strengthen victim and witness protection.

5. Staff Reports:

Office manager, Debbie Dunn, had surgery and is out on medical leave and will be back soon. Deb Kaup's husband has had health problems this summer. Some of her long-time volunteers have filled in a couple of times when she couldn't be at the Pantry. The Marshall Home Fund Emergency Taxi Grant has been very helpful to seniors needing to go shopping when our bus driver was on vacation. The Watertown Police Department held the DECIDE classes at the Senior Center this summer. The information helps people to stay safe. Caryl Fox checked into MSPCA help for senior pet owners. They have a special program just for persons with HIV/AIDS, not seniors. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

The acting EOEA secretary is Ellie Shea Delavey. The Care Connection program which has care managers at elderly housing sites has proven to be of real help to those who live there. The Massachusetts Home Care initiative is pursuing a small community model as a nursing home alternative. Springwell increased awareness of Food Stamps in their communities. Fresh produce was distributed to clients. Springwell is leaving it up to informal groups to start a Beacon Hill Village type of community in the area.

b. Senior Center Improvements Update:

Caryl Fox explained that she has quotes from two painters for the exterior of the building and will be getting another one. The plan is still to get the work done this fall. An engineering study of the Center's HVAC system will be done with funding from the loan authorization. The monies in the COA Improvements line item will be used for interior painting.

c. Food Pantry Attendance Numbers:

Caryl Fox shared Deb Kaup's Food Pantry statistics for fiscal year '07, as well as calendar year '06. There are now more seniors using the Pantry than children. The average (duplicated count) per month was three hundred and ninety four people.

7. New Business:

a. Fall Schedule:

Mellowtones, the art class, book club, tai chi, and knitting all resume in September and October. Kathleen Wolf has scheduled the popular eight week balance class sponsored by Newton-Wellesley Hospital for September. Interesting lectures that she has on the schedule include probate court information, the Prescription Advantage program, and a pharmacist speaking on drug interactions.

b. Faire on the Square:

The Faire will be held on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm this year. Once again, some Board members have agreed to take shifts at the COA table to give out literature and to answer questions. Caryl Fox requested a table away from the stage. Kathleen Wolf will put together material for our table.

c. Tufts Easy Care:

Board member Mary Keenan mentioned a good program which is part of “Tufts Preferred” called “Tufts Easy Care”. If people meet certain medical criteria, it provides for visits from a nurse every other week and good access to help through phone calls.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox