

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 – January 9, 2008

Present: Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Mary Keenan, Barbara Zenn Rediker, Betty Finnell, Jane Stadolnik, Dottie Fleming, and Will Twombly
Members Excused Absence: Chris Hursh

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold.
2. Board members read the minutes of the December meeting. A correction was noted. Barbara Zenn Rediker made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Mary Keenan seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:
The financial statements for the previous month were reviewed. Marie Morello made a motion to approve them and Will Twombly seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. A thank you note was received from a senior who became ill while at the Senior Center. She was helped by staff.

b. A notice was sent from EOEI concerning the changes in television signals from analog to digital in 2009.

c. The US treasury sent us flyers, which encourage seniors to direct deposit their social security checks.

d. There will be an Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House on January 16, 2008.

e. Newton-Wellesley Hospital sent a schedule for their winter health talks.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox highlighted areas from the three staff reports. The Senior Center was visited by a consulting architectural firm doing an assessment of the condition of Town buildings. Caryl Fox explained to them the problems we had with the HVAC system. The interior of the building will be painted soon. Ms. Fox authorized a rental bus when the shuttle needed an extensive repair. The MBTA came to a senior reduced fare pass replacement session and approximately one hundred new passes were issued. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

Springwell is trying to identify and assist their eligible clients in applying for Food Stamps. A meeting on mental health issues was held at Springwell in December. A committee is studying the creation of a home in one of their communities that will provide an alternative to nursing home placement. The agency is working to get the equal choice program implement, which allows people to get care in nursing homes or at home.

b. Quarterly Attendance Numbers:

The SHINE program and the health screenings had an increase in people utilizing the service and the Mellowtones group increased also. December was a snowy and icy month, which kept some people at home instead of coming for their usual classes and activities.

7. New Business:

a. Income Tax Program '08:

The income tax assistance program will begin at the Senior Center the second week in February. The AARP volunteers, who are trained by the IRS, are all people who are experienced and have been based in

Watertown. We have already received call from seniors requesting appointments.

b. Day Trips 2008:

Caryl Fox asked Board members for trip destination ideas and received many good suggestions. Possible places to visit that members mentioned included the Butterfly Place in Westford, the Boston Duck Tour, the Topiary Garden in Newport, a Sudbury Riverboat cruise, and a trip to historic Lowell.

c. Will Twombly announced that the Martin Luther King breakfast on January 21, 2008 at 9:00 AM, will have Liz Walker as the guest speaker.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox