

Watertown Council on Aging

SENIOR CENTER

31 MARSHALL ST.

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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 – March 12, 2008

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

Members Excused Absence: Betty Finnell 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. Dottie Fleming made a motion to approve and Will Twombly seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

The January and February statements were reviewed. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Will Twombly seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. A thank you letter was received from the family of a senior who passed away last year.
 - b. The Senior Center received a note from a grateful senior who used the Marshall Home Fund Taxi Grant program.

- c. The EOEIA Formula Grant award letter for FY '08 was received.
- d. We have information on utility protection from shut-off for seniors.
- e. The engineering company that was consulted about our HVAC problem has made their written recommendations.

- f. Springwell is holding a meeting the evening of March 19, 2008 at the Weston Library about aging in place.

- g. Pamphlets with tips for downsizing to a smaller home are available at the Center.

- h. B.C. Legal services provided written material on making a will.

- i. An AAA booklet on "How to Help an Older Driver" is an excellent publication.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox highlighted areas from the three staff reports. The interior painting of the Center has been completed. The income tax program through AARP volunteers will have additional appointments after April 15, 2008 for those who don't usually file and qualify for the stimulus package. The AAA lecture on helping older drivers was well attended and was an excellent presentation. The video series on care giving is reaching a new group of people. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

- a. Springwell Update:

The "Traveling Chef" program will be going to all the meal sites this summer. The Home Care agencies are still working on getting funding from the state legislature for the Equal Choice Program. The Protective Services program continues to be under funded. Springwell will provide some services to non-seniors with disabilities due to state mandate. The agency is trying to expand the scope of their mental health programs.

7. New Business:

- a. FY '09 Budget:

The submitted budget for FY '09 was reviewed by Board members. Caryl Fox increased the Building Maintenance line item slightly. The reason the part-time line item is smaller than the submitted budget last year is because the EOEIA Formula Grant Funding was increased.

- b. Capital Improvement:

The Capital budget for the Town includes FY '09 through FY '13. The plan is for \$10,000 for each fiscal year for furnishings and other building

needs. The shuttle bus is scheduled for replacement in FY '11. Caryl Fox has informed the Town Manager that the COA wants to be involved in the selection process.

c. Facilities Assessment Study – Senior Center:

A study of all Town buildings was conducted by an architectural firm in December. Their written recommendations includes the improvement of the Senior Center HVAC system.

d. Board Appointment Ordinance 2008:

The Town Council passed an ordinance effective January 1, 2008 making some changes in the procedures for filling Town Board vacancies. All current COA Board members were asked to call the Town Manager's office to indicate that they were interested in staying on the Board.

e. Goals related to keeping people in their own homes were discussed, as well as the importance of setting goals.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox