

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 – November 12, 2008

Present: Marie Morello, Mary Keenan, Betty Finnell, Dottie Fleming, Jane Stadolnik, and Hagop Sarkissian.

Members Excused Absence: Pat Gold, Will Twombly, and Chris Hursh.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Vice-Chairperson Marie Morello.
2. Board members read the minutes of the last meeting. Dottie Fleming made a motion to accept and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:
The financial statements for the previous month were reviewed by the Board. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. Fuel assistance income amounts were raised by the Commonwealth of MA. This change will help more people qualify.
 - b. Information is available about affordable units at the new apartment complex at the Coolidge School.
 - c. Springwell has a new grant with the Multiple Sclerosis society to provide information on all their services.

- d. Deb Kaup will be distributing gift cards for Thanksgiving to those who come regularly to the Food Pantry. The amount varies by family size.
5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox highlighted areas from the three staff reports. On October 29, 2008, Ms. Fox presented information at the Watertown Emergency Coalition meeting on what we have done to help seniors and the COA department to prepare for an emergency. Caryl Fox attended the Watertown Community Foundation Task Force on emergency assistance on November 6, 2008, and a public meeting on community needs assessment and emergency needs. Lectures this month included presentations by the SHINE coordinator and the assessor. Two flu shot clinics were held at the Senior Center. The Harvest party on October 31, 2008, was a big success. Kathleen Wolf applied for and received a five hundred dollar grant from Watertown Savings Bank to help us with the cost of the Holiday Party. The reports were accepted by acclamation.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Springwell Update:

The Home Care Purchase Service line item and the Care Management line item were cut during the current budget cycle. The Prescription Advantage Program also has received a large cut.
 - b. Senior Center and Senior Shuttle Improvement Update:

Caryl Fox and Debbie Dunn re-worked the priorities for the Senior Center Capital Improvement programs for the fiscal year FY '09 as well as for fiscal years FY '10 through FY '14. We changed the FY'09 priorities so that funds were available this year for seat belts to be installed on the Senior Shuttle. The Town Manager authorized the work to be done right away. DPW took the bus to the dealer and the seat belts are already installed on the bus.
7. New Business:
 - a. Fuel Assistance and Other Resources:

We are trying to make sure that Watertown seniors are aware that they have raised the income guidelines in MA allowing more people to qualify. Other resources like Citizen Energy, the Good Neighbor Fund, and the Mass. Energy Consumers Alliance have been put in the November newsletter.
 - b. Property Tax Work-off Program:

Caryl Fox will be interviewing applicants in November and placing eligible seniors with participating departments. People who meet low-income eligibility income standards and who have never been a part of the program before have priority.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox