

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 10, 2008

Present: Marie Morello, Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Betty Finnell, Dottie Fleming, Will Twombly, and Hagop Sarkissian.

Members Excused Absence: Mary Keenan and Jane Stadolnik.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold.
2. The minutes of the November meeting were read by Board members. Marie Morello made a motion to accept and Dottie Fleming seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:
Board members reviewed the November statements. Caryl Fox reported that there is adequate funding in all the line items at this time. The availability of the Marshall Home Taxi Fund is much appreciated. Will Twombly made a motion to approve and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. There is a Town Holiday Reception at the Commander's Mansion on December 15, 2008.
 - b. Deb Kaup sent out her annual letter to Food Pantry donors.
 - c. The Department of Public Utilities has some new regulations that help protect seniors from winter heat shut-off.
 - d. The Prescription Advantage has made some changes in its plan for 2009.
 - e. The Coolidge School Apartments extended the deadline for senior to apply for affordable housing.

- f. The Fire Department gave us information on candle fire safety.
5. Staff Reports:

The lecture on memory issue this month was co-sponsored by the Watertown Savings Bank and the Alzheimer's Association and had more than one hundred people in attendance. Caryl Fox attended the Emergency Planning Coalition Meeting and the Watertown Community Foundation Task Force meeting. The reports were accepted by acclamation.
6. Old Business:
 - a. Springwell Update:

The once a week meal site at 100 Warren St. has been closed due to low attendance (five people). However, the Springwell site at 55 Waverly serves lunch seven days a week and attendance is about twenty. EOEa made mid-year cuts to some Springwell programs. They may need to establish a waiting list for new clients, but no service cuts are planned for current clients.
 - b. Property Tax Work-off Program Update:

Caryl Fox interviewed people in November and is finalizing placements. Seniors will be working at the library, Hosmer School library, and in the clerk's, assessors, and personnel departments. They work ninety-four hours in exchange for seven hundred and fifty dollars off of their real estate tax bill.
7. New Business:
 - a. Senior Center Winter Weather Policy:

Caryl Fox reminded Board members about our snow policy. If Watertown schools are cancelled, Senior Center programs, including the shopping bus, are cancelled. If school opening is delayed, programs may be cancelled, so calling first is advisable. Staff members are always in during regular business hours.
 - b. Housing Options for Seniors:

Watertown Community Housing and the Watertown Planning department are going to apply for a grant to help seniors with housing issues, including zero percent loans for home repairs.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox