

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 – March 11, 2009

Present: Pat Gold, Marie Morello, Will Twombly, Betty Finnell, Dottie Fleming, and Mike Donham.

Members Excused Absence: Mary Keenan, Jane Stadolnik, and Hagop Sarkissian.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 by Chairperson Pat Gold who introduced new Board member, Michael Donham, to other Board members and welcomed him to the COA.
2. The Board read the February meeting minutes. A typographical error was noted. Will Twombly made a motion to approve the minutes as amended and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
3. Financial Statements:

Board members reviewed the financial statements. Caryl Fox noted that she will ask the Town Manager for a transfer of funds into emergency assistance from one of the utility line items. The Town requires special approval for all purchase orders due to the FY '09 budget crunch. In February everything was approved without any difficulties. Dottie Fleming made a motion to approve and Betty Finnell seconded. Passed.
4. Correspondence:
 - a. Caryl Fox received the award letter from EOEI for the FY '09 Formula Grant.
 - b. The Food Pantry was given a financial gift as part of the Watertown Savings Bank's Customer Choice Awards.

c. Deb Kaup had the January statistics for the Food Pantry, as well as numbers for February. The number of people using the Pantry had increased in February '09 from February '08.

5. Staff Reports:

Caryl Fox "trained" with Deb Kaup in order to run the Pantry for her when she takes a week's vacation in early March. Ms. Fox attended the Marshall Home Fund's grant application meeting that was held on February 11, 2009. She has been in contact with the Purchasing Agent and the Town Treasurer about insulation for the Senior Center and it's still a good possibility. The AARP tax assistance program started on February 6, 2009 and is filling up quickly. February events included a talk on Social Security and Medicare and a sign-up for MBTA senior passes. The eight week class presented by the Arthritis Foundation and funded by Springwell was a great success. The reports were accepted by acclamation.

6. Old Business:

a. Springwell Update:

Springwell hasn't yet received information about specific budget line items or any possible cuts to programs at this time. The agency is hoping that the nutrition programs will have sufficient monies to continue the on-going programs.

7. New Business:

a. Snow Shoveling:

Board members discussed the issues for seniors concerning snow shoveling. A proposed snow ordinance regarding residential snow shoveling was withdrawn on March 10, 2009 at the Town Council meeting. A general resolution in favor of people in the community helping seniors and those with disabilities in need of assistance was passed by the Town Council.

b. Day Trip Schedule:

Staff members Caryl Fox, Debbie Dunn, and Kathleen Wolf met with Peter Cruz, the director of Atlantic Coach, to plan the trips for this year. A variety of interesting places and events were selected. The focus is also on keeping the prices reasonable.

c. Senior Center Yard Sale:

The Senior Center's annual yard sale will be on Saturday, May 2, 2009. This annual event is a fund-raiser for the Revolving Fund and it serves as an activity for senior participants. People will be able to bring in things for the sale beginning on April 27, 2009. Board members are welcome to help set-up, work at the sale, or with clean-up.

8. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Caryl Leslie Fox