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## Council On Aging Minutes 05/15/2008

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING  
27 Maple Street  
Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Town of Arlington

*Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair  
Karen Nichols Vice Chair  
Shirley Chapski, Secretary.*

Annual Meeting of the Council on Aging  
May 15, 2008

### MINUTES

**Place and Time of Meeting:** Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:00 p.m.

**Members Present:** Robert Tosi, Jr., William Carey, Mildred Hurd, Harry McCabe, Karen Nichols and Shirley Chapski

**Others Present:** John Jope, COA Executive Director; Ann FitzGerald, Lucilia Prates and Mary Lou Cramer.

**Quorum Identification/Call to Order:** Bob Tosi, Jr. presided and Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 6 was present.

**Minutes of the April 17, 2008 Regular Meeting:** Karen moved to accept the minutes of the April 7, 2008 meeting. Bill seconded. There being no corrections to the minutes, 4 voted in favor, 2 abstained. **Motion carried.**

**REPORT OF THE CHAIR:** Bob reported (a) Town Meeting Warrant Article 26, Bylaw amendment/sidewalk, curb and school route snow removal, did not pass in its original form but a resolution passed; and (b) other communities are dealing with financial problems. Newton may have to close its senior center on Saturdays if an override doesn't pass. John added that seven senior centers across the state are in danger of closing.

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

• **April 18 Volunteer Luncheon:** This event was structured a little more lightly this year and everyone who attended had a great time.

• **Friends of the COA:** Those involved are working with the attorney on The Articles of Incorporation and after incorporation they will work towards seeking federal status as a nonprofit organization.

• **EOEA Board Training for Councils on Aging:** Board training for COAs will be conducted by Emmett H. Schmarsow, Program Manager for Councils on Aging and Senior Centers, Executive Office of Elder Affairs, on June 17, 2008 at the Bedford COA. COA Board members, directors and "Friends of the COA" are invited to attend.

• **Lahey Clinic Grant Awards:** John was at Lahey Clinic yesterday where their grant recipients were required to be part of their Showcase 2008 showing what the recipients did with the money that Lahey gave them. Arlington COA had a display of our Lahey-supported exercise programs was it was well received.

• **COA Board Membership:** John and Christine Connolly have interviewed three applicants, Ann FitzGerald, Lucilia Prates and Joanne Morel, and John and Christine have recommended that the Town Manager approve all three applicants.

• **Senior Dinner Dance:** The dance is an Arlington Recreation Department sponsored event which will be held on Friday, June 8, 5:00-8:00 p.m. at the Arlington Sports Center on Summer St. There will be a buffet and live entertainment and the cost is \$15/person.

### OTHER REPORTS:

• **COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services:** Bob mentioned that a Purchase Order for the appropriation voted at Town Meeting last year for Minuteman Senior Services has been generated and John added that Joan Butler of Minuteman called to say they have received the check. Harry reported that our representation on the Minuteman Board has been reduced from three members to two. The three persons will remain on the board until someone steps down and then the vacancy will not be filled.

*\*John introduced Lucilia Prates and Mary Lou Cramer who joined the meeting at 7:30 p.m.*

• **COA Representative/Liaison to the Seniors Association:** Mildred has not been able to attend Senior Association meetings lately and has not received notices in the mail concerning meetings. She discussed the problems she is experiencing with transportation and Bob welcomed her input and Karen urged her to call the COA for van transportation to her medical appointments.

• **Arlington Seniors Association Representative to COA:** In Joan Caterino's absence, Bob spoke on the ASA's Indoor Yard Sale which is being held on Saturday, May 17. This event is a fundraiser for the ASA and he encouraged the board's support.

• **Budget Committee:** The Budget Committee met with John this month and reviewed last month's figures, a copy of which is in the board packet. Bob reported on Warrant Article 32 - Town Meeting April 2008 - Community Development Block Grant Program. Under "Public Services," the COA Volunteer Services Coordinator's salary was fully funded at \$43,584; the Dial-a-Ride Transportation was funded at \$62,850; Adult Day Health Center Scholarships was funded at \$4,000 (requested amount was \$11,500). Unfunded were: Transportation Replacement Van (20% share), Lifeline Subsidy Program and Meals-on-Wheels Program. Discussion followed and John explained that help for the Meals-on-Wheels program can be supported through the Gift Fund but the Lifeline Subsidy Program and the Adult Day Health Center Scholarships will impact some recipients. Bill questioned whether or not we should submit a substitute motion at Town Meeting for more funding but Bob explained that the amounts granted under the CDBG affect a finite number of individuals but it is funding the positions that are far-reaching. John recommended that over the summer he meet with small groups of board members to talk about COA programs, the cost of each, and prioritize them. We will then have a template for action.

Bob pointed out that Youth Services, an Enterprise Fund which is supposed to be fully funding itself, received money from the General Fund in 2008 towards their deficit and will receive more in 2009 so if we feel there is appropriate needs for the seniors and, we can't cover them through user fees, then the Town should cover the remaining balance.

• **Joint ASA/COA Committee:** The committee met this month and welcomed a new ASA-appointed member, Christine Green. Bob talked about the Survey, a random sampling of which is being sent this month to 1000 Arlington seniors age 50 and over. The ASA is planning on having a Pot Luck meal and the COA is considering being a part of that to foster mutual board cooperation. The next meeting of the Joint ASA/COA Committee is on June 2, 2008 at 10:30 a.m.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

• **Symmes Hospital Trust:** Harry talked with Patsy Kraemer regarding the Symmes Hospital Fund which amounts to approximately \$7,000,000 and is lying dormant. A special private nonprofit corporation, *Arlington Health & Human Services Charitable Corporation*, was created to access the funds but has had no success. Patsy said that since she is now retired, her responsibility has migrated to Christine Connolly and Christine may know if anything has transpired since Patsy retired. Harry added that the judge should be made aware of the deadlock because there is a large sum in trust which belongs to the people of Arlington and the surrounding areas. Bob felt it is a large issue and the leaders of the town should be involved to free up that money so it could benefit many nonprofit agencies.

• **Transportation Enterprise Program Stabilization Plan:** Bob referred to last month's meeting where it was voted to use to use Sevoyan Charitable Trust funds in an amount of up to \$12,000 towards the cost of a new van. John next gave the following update on the program: (a) The transmission in the newest van had to be replaced amounting to \$3000 out of pocket expense. (b) No money has been paid out on the taxi contract because the taxi company has never billed us for last calendar year and for this calendar year they have not signed a contract but still provide services. The point is for fiscal 2008 we projected an expense of \$24,700 for taxi service which we didn't spend so that remains in the kitty. (c) Copies of the Transportation Enterprise Fund Projections for FY2008 and FY2009 were distributed. According to the projections, retained earnings for FY2009 will be \$1509, but if the \$24,000 for FY2008 taxi expense reaches settlement, at a decision arrived at by the Town, then a \$24,000 shortfall will be incurred.

• **Transferring Funds from the Sevoyan Trust to Supplement Transportation Enterprise Program Funding Needs:** In follow up to last month's discussion of the June 7, 2007 Meeting of the Transportation Committee where it was voted to consider moving funds from the Sevoyan Trust to the Transportation Enterprise Program, the secretary researched the records to determine when the minutes were approved. The motion is as follows: *John recommended \$30,000 be transferred to help fund the transportation program in 2008 and another \$30,000 the following year. Paul moved to consider moving funds (no specified dollar amount) from the Sevoyan Trust. Ann seconded, four voted in favor, Bob opposed. Motion carried.* The minutes of the June 7, 2007 meeting were approved at the July 16, 2007 Transportation Committee meeting and the minutes of the July 16, 2007 meeting were also subsequently approved. Bob explained the reason this came up was to show it was on record that we were willing to support the transfer of money by that vote from the Sevoyan funds and we were concerned about whether or not the June 7, 2007 minutes had been actually approved.

**Introducing Potential Board Members:** The board members welcomed Ann FitzGerald, Lucilia Prates and Mary Lou Cramer who in turn spoke of their backgrounds and interest in the COA.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Sevoyan Dental Subsidy Fund Program:** John reported that there is \$3300 remaining in the program and since Feb. 2007 there have been no additional funds added. He is asking authority to transfer \$10,000 from the Sevoyan Charitable Trust into the Dental Subsidy Fund. Harry moved to transfer \$10,000 from the Sevoyan Charitable Trust into the Sevoyan Dental Subsidy Program; Shirley seconded; all in favor. **Motion carried.**
- **Annual Election of Officers:** Bob asked if there were any nominations for position of "Chair." Shirley nominated Karen Nichols for Chair and Karen declined. Bill moved to table the elections until the June meeting; Shirley seconded; all in favor. **Motion carried.**
- **COA Board Training:** John will work on updating the board training program which will require four or five sessions to complete. It was agreed to begin the program in the fall.

Tonight is the last meeting for Bob Tosi whose term expires mid June. The members thanked Bob for a job well done and John expressed it best when he said Bob will be missed personally and professionally. Bob would like to be considered to serve as an associate member and Karen will call Ann MacGowan to ask if she wants to be considered to serve as an associate, as well.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Harry moved to adjourn; Shirley seconded; all in favor. **Motion carried.** Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

  
Shirley Chapski  
Secretary

Next Regular COA Meeting June 19, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.