



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Council on Aging Minutes 06/21/07

ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

27 Maple Street

Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging

June 21, 2007

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair
 Shirley Chapski, Secretary

MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m.

Members Present: Robert Tosi, Jr., Paul West, Harry McCabe, William Carey and Shirley Chapski

Members Absent: Mildred Hurd, Ann MacGowan and Karen Nichols

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Bob Tosi presided and Shirley Chapski kept the minutes. A quorum of 5 was present.

Minutes of the May 17, 2007 Annual Meeting: Harry moved to accept the minutes of the May 17, 2007 meeting; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR: Bob spoke on the Arlington Dollars for Scholars awards. At a recent Budget Cte. Meeting, at which Christine Connolly was present, discussion took place on whether the initial allocation for Dollars for Scholars was appropriate at the time the board voted on it. It was a one-time appropriation and the question is whether or not we can take back the excess interest from it. Christine will look into it.

Minuteman Senior Services' Meals-on-Wheels program celebrated its 30th Anniversary this date with a special luncheon at the Arlington Senior Center.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The report is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. Additional comments are as follows:

- Item 2: John raised the issue of fund raising at the last MCOA Advisory meeting and learned that most COAs are advised by their city or town officials that municipal agencies are prohibited from fund raising.
 - Item 3: 1991 COA Council Work Session Report: Copies were distributed for discussion later in the meeting.
 - One of the COA volunteer receptionists has left because she has received parking tickets and cannot deal with the parking situation any longer. Joyce Killingsworth, COA staff member, suggested we petition the town to help volunteers, perhaps by placing a placard on their windshields saying they are a COA volunteer. Discussion followed with Bob suggesting volunteers consider the COA van service an option.
 - Item 6: Formula Grant: John will work on the revised application for the formula grant and the board will be informed when it needs to meet to approve and sign off on it. John urged the board members to write our legislators now thanking them for the 3% Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) budget increase in our formula grant.
 - Item 7: MCOA fall conference will be held Oct 3-5 at the Sturbridge Host hotel. Other MCOA membership meetings are held throughout the year, usually at the Milford COA, and are well worth attending.
- Dorothy Sullivan's husband passed away recently. Dorothy is an Arlington COA representative to the Minuteman Senior Services board.
- John has been working with Jean Sullivan of Minuteman Meal site to reinstate the monthly Dinner Theater which was popular some years ago. Minuteman will offer a cold supper for a \$2 donation and COA will provide the movie. August 23 will be the first date for the monthly dinner theater.
 - EOEA Secretary, Jennifer Davis Carey, has resigned her position and an interim secretary, Eleanor Shea-Delaney, has been named.

OTHER REPORTS:

- COA Representative/Liaison to Minuteman Senior Services: No report.
- COA Representative/Liaison to the Seniors Association: No report.

- Arlington Seniors Association Representative to COA: No report.
- Budget Committee: John reviewed the financial report pointing out that under “Municipal Accounts: Transportation” revenues for the end of May totaled \$53,936, and expenses amounted to \$114,398. However, there is a carryover from the previous fiscal year of \$76,295 which will help. The “Sevoyan Dental Subsidy Program” shows an available amount of \$5657, which does not reflect the \$10,000 transferred from Sevoyan Trust to the Sevoyan Dental Subsidy Program. Bob referred to Warrant Article 62, Appropriation/Harry Barber Community Service, and Article 63: Appropriation/Minuteman Senior Services, both of which were approved at the Annual Town Meeting on May 21, 2007 Bob may speak to Allan Tosti of the Finance Cte at least on the Harry Barber Community Service Program to see if he would be open to the idea of including that as a line item in the misc. warrant articles.
- Transportation Committee:
The Transportation Cte. met on June 7 and the next meeting will be held on July 16 at 4 p.m. Discussion followed on the donation envelopes which were designed by Ann MacGowan. They have been printed and are ready for placement in funeral homes. John said the next step is creating a letter to funeral directors requesting an appointment to discuss their willingness to display the envelopes. Paul suggested we carry the project further by including doctors.
- Joint COA/ASA Committee: The committee met on June 4, 2007 and the next meeting will be August 6. The committee is continuing to work on its joint goals. The ASA board does not agree with the original proposed date of September 13 for the joint social because it is too close to Town Day. It is felt that it would be better to hold the social after the ASA’s annual meeting in October. No date has been set.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Agency Needs and Goals: Included in this month’s board packet is the 1991 Report of the COA Work Session and John’s thoughts on agency problems and recommendations. At the beginning of the year Bob had outlined some action items and asked the members to submit their objectives, as well, but he didn’t get much feedback. Discussion followed and Harry felt we couldn’t do justice to the subject at a regular meeting and would suggest a special, previously announced, meeting be held to focus on just this topic. Paul moved that a committee of the whole, designated “Long Range Planning Committee,” be formed to consider the two documents: the report of the 1991 Work Session and “Perceived Problems and Suggested Resolutions.” Bill seconded; all in favor. Motion carried. An initial meeting was set for Monday, August 20, at 4 p.m. at the Senior Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Dial-A-Ride Specifications; Bob suggested a subcommittee be set up to meet with John to review both last year’s specifications and this year’s. Harry said that where we are actively involved in reviewing our transportation program, we should consider the possibility that we may not want to renew the the Dial-a-Ride taxi program — we may want to roll over the money into our own van transportation program. He asked if the current specifications provide for “no award.” John said in the specifications there has been a long-standing clause that either party, Arlex or the Town of Arlington, can cancel the contract with 30 days notice. Discussion took place and John will make copies of the current specifications/contract available for the next meeting of the Transportation Cte. Harry said the current contract should be looked at to see if there is a provision for continuing the existing contract in the absence of a renewal while the renewal is being considered.
- Change of Time for Monthly COA Meetings: Discussion took place on whether or not to change the time of monthly meetings to an earlier hour. Harry moved that the matter be tabled until the September meeting when more members would be in attendance; Paul seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.
- Office of Vice Chair: At last month’s election of officers Paul West was nominated for Vice Chair for the upcoming year pending his acceptance. Paul said he will not accept the nomination. Consequently, the position of Vice Chair is open.
- Needs of the Transportation Program: John distributed a paper, “Recommendation: A Dual-Track Approach,” on transportation issues for the board’s consideration and discussion at the next Transportation Committee meeting.
- Timetable for Regular Monthly Meetings: Bob has been trying to make sure that meetings end by 9:30 p.m. and he feels he has been fairly successful in adhering to that schedule.

- REVIEW ACTION ITEMS:**
- Bob reminded the members to read the “Dual Track Approach” document for the July 16 Transportation Cte. meeting.
 - Harry referred to the May minutes in which it was stated that rider ship figures would be made available to the members. He asked that these figures be on hand for the July 16 meeting .
 - Have items ready for Long Term Planning when we meet in August.
 - The open position of Vice Chair needs to be filled as soon as possible.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Harry moved to adjourn; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Motion carried. Adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Next Regular Meeting of the COA September 20, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

