



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Council on Aging Minutes 11/08/07

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

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

Special Meeting of the Council on Aging  
 November 8, 2007  
 MINUTES

Purpose of the Special Meeting: To meet with the Arlington Seniors Association, Inc. (ASA) to socialize and discuss matters of mutual interest and concern.

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington,  
 6:30 p.m.

COA Members Present: Bob Tosi, Jr., Mildred Hurd, Harry McCabe, Ann MacGowan, Karen Nichols and Shirley Chapski.

COA Members Absent: William Carey and Paul West

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

ASA Members Present: Ann MacGowan, President, Charles Schwab, Treasurer, Elisa Lopez, Clerk, Maureen Jackson, Asst. Clerk, Harry McCabe, Christine Green, Mary Bond, Lillian Braudis, June Mackey, Charles Hayes, and Thomas Driscoll.

Others Present: John Jope, Executive Director of the COA, Joan Pippin, ASA Coordinator, and Bill Murphy, Coordinator of the COA Transportation Program and Director of Volunteers.

Bob Tosi, Chair of the COA, called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and invited all attendees to introduce themselves, state which board each served on, offices held, if any, and years of service. Bob and Ann MacGowan, ASA President, welcomed everyone.

- Council on Aging and Role of the Executive Director: Bob Tosi explained that the COA board, like the ASA board, is a volunteer board appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Board of Selectmen. Members serve three-year terms with reappointments after three years. The Executive Director, John Jope, is a full-time employee of the Town reporting to Christine Connolly, Department Head.

- Arlington Seniors Association and Role of the Coordinator: Ann MacGowan stated that the ASA program coordinator, Joan Pippin, is an employee of the ASA reporting directly to the ASA board and Ann in particular. Joan has a similar role to John Jope. She is responsible for the scheduling of programs, follows up on requests from the Program Committee and investigates new programs for the Program Committee. Joan is also responsible for the operation of the senior center during the hours the center is open.

Bill Murphy added that his way of answering questions about who is the COA and who is the ASA, is to describe the building as the senior center with the COA doing well being sorts of things and the ASA offering educational and social activities. Harry added that when he is asked about the difference between the ASA and COA, he explains that the Council on Aging is a government agency and the Arlington Seniors Association is a private, non profit corporation.

- Role of ASA & COA Rep to Each Board: Representatives of both boards attend the other's board meetings to share information and learn how we can help each other and work together. To date, Mildred Hurd has been the COA representative to the ASA board, and Elisa Lopez has represented the ASA at the COA board meetings. Ann said appointing a new ASA representative will be taken up at the next ASA board meeting.

- Joint ASA/COA Committee: The Joint ASA/COA Committee was formed to bring both boards together to discuss issues of mutual concern and find ways to address those concerns. The Committee, comprised of members from both boards, meets on the first Monday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Periodically, the entire ASA/COA boards get together and a similar meeting and social as tonight's

was held last year. Many issues were raised at that meeting and we have been able to move forward. Current members of the Joint ASA/COA Committee are Joan Pippin, John Jope, Ann MacGowan, Bob Tosi, Shirley Chapski, Charles Schwab, Elisa Lopez and Karen Nichols.

- 2008 ASA/COA Town Survey: The Joint ASA/COA Committee has been working on a draft of a Town Survey, the purpose of which is to learn how the public views the Senior Center, its services and whether or not their needs are being met. The survey is scheduled to go out after the first of the year. The information gained from the returned questionnaires will help both agencies determine the public's needs the possibility of introducing new services. A draft of the survey was distributed to the attendees to take home, review, and get back with their comments or suggestions.

- Transportation Enterprise Program: John distributed a document he compiled which gave a comprehensive overview of the program which was designed to provide community access for Arlington's low and moderate-income elders. The program has two components, namely: a subsidized taxi program for use within Arlington, and the lift-equipped vans which primarily provide transport to the Senior Center and to out-of-town medical appointments. The program is set up as an enterprise fund which means it is designed to support itself; we receive annual CDBG funding but that has been reduced in recent years; no municipal or state funds are received. Currently, the program is in financial difficulty. We need to plan not only for the present but for the future when the senior population will greatly increase.

**NEW BUSINESS:** Bill Murphy spoke on the ASA/COA Intergenerational Book Club at the high school which he has been involved with over the past four years. He has been amazed at the effect upon the kids and the seniors involved. It has really worked. He suggested the Intergenerational Program be expanded to include possibly poetry readings and mentoring. Ann MacGowan said she would meet with him to talk about it.

**Upcoming Meetings:** The next ASA meeting is Nov. 9 at 1 p.m. The COA Budget Cte. will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 13 at 10:30 and the regular COA meeting is Thursday, Nov. 15 at 7 p.m.

Bob and Ann thanked everyone for attending and providing desserts for the social which followed the business meeting.

There being no other business Shirley moved to adjourn, Ann seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary