



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts**  
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## Council on Aging Minutes 04/23/06

The following minutes of the March 23, 2006 Regular Meeting were approved at the Regular Meeting of the COA on April 20, 2006.

### ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

27 Maple Street  
 Arlington, MA 02476-4909

Robert Tosi, Jr., Chair  
 Paul West, Vice Chair  
 Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Regular Meeting of the Council on Aging  
 March 23, 2006  
 MINUTES

Place and Time of Meeting: Arlington Senior Center, 27 Maple St., Arlington, 7:30 p.m. Members Present: Robert Tosi, Jr., Ann MacGowan, Mildred Hurd, Ruth Palombo, Harry McCabe, Robert Carey, Paul West, (joined the meeting at 8:30) and Shirley Chapski. Members Absent: William Carey.

Others Present: John Jope, COA Executive Director; Mary Ann McGuirk, COA Social Worker Intern (arrived 8:30)

Quorum Identification/Call to Order: Bob Tosi, Jr. presided and Shirley Chapski, Secretary, kept the minutes. A quorum of 7 was present.

Minutes of the February 16, 2006 Regular Meeting: Harry moved to receive the minutes of the February 16, 2006 meeting, Ruth seconded. The following correction was made: p. 1, Executive Director's Report: Item #1, last ¶, Letter to Lahey Clinic Clients, delete the word, "discounted" and insert: "the temporary \$10 round-trip rate for..." Harry moved to approve the minutes, as corrected, Bob Carey seconded, all in favor. Motion carried.

Citizens' Open Forum: None.

Executive Director's Report: The Executive Director's report is attached hereto and made a part of the minutes. John added the following comments:

1. COA Geriatric Nurse Specialist: This position has been vacated and an effort is under way to fill the opening. In the meantime, the student nurses will cover the twice a week blood pressure clinics through May. The podiatry clinic and dental subsidy clinic will continue.
2. Senior Aide: Eulalie Koram has completed her 2-year assignment. John met with Operation ABLE and offered them an expanded job description for a senior aide which ABLE approved. Eulalie, if she agrees, will be able to continue in this expanded role for another term.
3. Board of Health/Human Services: Christine Connolly, BOH Director, will replace Patsy Kraemer as Director of Human Services beginning July '06. She will retain the directorship of the BOH.
- 4 & 5. Attendance at Selectmen's Meetings: John attended the March 13 meeting to request support of COA CDBG requests and March 20 meeting to seek support for Article 57/Senior Citizen Program (Harry Barber Community Service Program). He had the opportunity to speak at both meetings.
6. June 15<sup>th</sup> COA Board Meeting: The date of the June COA regular meeting conflicts with Patsy Kraemer's retirement party. It was agreed to change the date of the June meeting to June 22.
7. Transfer of Funds: At the February meeting, John was asked to find out whether or not funds could be transferred from the Transportation Enterprise Fund into the Gift Fund. He checked with the CDBG manager's office and the answer is no, they cannot be.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Status of COA Warrant Articles. Bob Tosi gave the following report.

(a) The Harry Barber Community Service warrant article was heard at the Selectmen's hearing (as John stated in his report). Bob said the only reason they looked at it is because he had included wording on filing Home Rule petition. The selectmen voted unanimously in favor of the article. The recommendation that is voted on by Town meeting is the motion of the Finance Committee.

(b) The Minuteman Warrant Article – the Finance Committee has not made a final determination but will most likely not support it, as we heard extensively last month from John Deyst and Mary Margaret Franclement.

(c) The warrant article, COA Exercise Programs, was pulled by the Town Manager. Bob followed up on this action and learned by email from John Maher that the only way to secure an article to be in the warrant articles is to have ten registered voters. The Selectmen's Office as a courtesy inserts articles of the town's boards and commissions. All non elected boards and commissions are under the general supervision of the Town Manager.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

- Town Forum on Meeting the Needs of Families Caring for Elders: At 8:30 Mary Anne McGuirk, MSW Intern at the COA, spoke on the upcoming forum on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 from 6 to 9 p.m. The forum sponsored by the COA will host local agencies. The featured speakers are Michelle Hughes, RPT, Minuteman Senior Services, – Who's on First? Shifting Family Roles As We Age; John Alessandroni, Exec. Dir. Park Ave Nursing and Rehabilitation Center – Navigating the Elder Care Maze; and Noreen Murphy, Attorney, – The Changing Face of Legal Issues in Elder Care. Mary Anne then departed the meeting.
- Request to Approve Annual Transfer of \$10,000 from the Sevoyan Trust to the Sevoyan Dental Program: Harry moved to approve the transfer of \$10,000 from the Sevoyan Trust fund to the Sevoyan Dental Program; Shirley seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.
- Review Income Eligibility Figures for the Sevoyan Dental Program: Section 3, Item c, of the Sevoyan Dental Care Subsidy Program, lists the following eligibility guidelines: "Those whose annual income from all sources is one-half or less of current low-income guideline limits as established by HUD for the current calendar year. Therefore, the Program's income limits, as established January 2004, will be \$21,925 for a single person living alone, or \$25,050 for a married couple living together." The latest eligibility figures are \$23,150 for a single person living alone, or \$26,475 for a married couple living together. Harry moved that the Program's eligibility guidelines be changed to reflect these latest figures, Paul seconded; all in favor. Motion carried.

#### COA Finances Mini In-Service:

John conducted a half-hour presentation of the COA's finances giving a detailed and thorough explanation of all COA finances. The members discussed certain items and made recommendations. With regard to the Sevoyan/COA Scholarship funds, Harry pointed out that these funds are in the Town's scholarship program administered by the Treasurer and his scholarship committee. Harry would like to see that item removed from the COA financial report. John suggested we look at it again next month and get everyone's thoughts on it.

#### OTHER REPORTS:

• Transportation Committee: The Committee has not met recently but will set up a date for a future meeting after tonight's board meeting.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, Harry moved to adjourn; Bob Carey seconded; all in favor. Adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Shirley Chapski, Secretary

Next Regular Meeting, April 20, 2006 at 7:30 p.m.

### ARLINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

March 23, 2006

the mission of the council on aging is to provide advocacy and support services  
to help arlington elders live dignified and independent lives

1. The Council on Aging Geriatric Nurse Specialist left her position earlier this month to take a position with the state. Steps are under way to fill this position, but it has been reduced from a benefited 21-hour position to a non-benefited 19-hour position. As nurses are in strong demand right now, it's difficult to estimate when this position might be filled. Our monthly podiatry clinic will continue but some other health/wellness offerings will be discontinued until this position is filled. The student nurses will staff our twice-weekly blood pressure clinics through May.
2. Our Senior Aide, Eulalie Koram, has also left the COA, her time being almost up, and her on-site supervisor (COA nurse) having left. Eulalie was very pleasant, and tremendously helpful, particularly with our data-entry needs. I'm planning to meet with Operation ABLE later in the month, looking into having Eulalie back with us in an expanded role.

3. It has been announced that Christine Connolly, Board of Health Director, will assume the position of Director of Human Services as of July 2006. She will also remain as Director of the BOH. The Recreation Division will split off from Human Services and will become its own department.
  
4. Attended Selectmen's meeting on 3/13 to request support for our CDBG requests.

Will attend Selectmen's meeting on 3/20 to request support for Article 57/Senior Citizen Program.