

Arlington Council on Aging Meeting Minutes May 21, 2015

Present: Mara Klein Collins, Jim Munsey, Noreen Murphy, Dick Phelps, Paul Raia, and Marge Vanderhill.

Associate members present: Karen Nichols and Ann Fitzgerald

Absent: Sue Culhane, Annette Bender, Ingeborg Reichenbach

I. Call to order: Mara called the regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board to order at 5:46PM on May 21, 2015, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA. Marge Vanderhill volunteered to record the minutes of this meeting.

II. Citizen's Open Forum: No one present.

III. Jim Munsey submitted minutes from the April 16, 2015, meeting. It was voted to approve the minutes.

IV. Report of the Chair

A. The COA has staffing shortages due to vacations and medical leaves. Coverage is needed at the COA for the next six to eight weeks, especially in the mornings. Call the Executive Director if you can volunteer.

B. Mara has been attending the ASA programming meetings as the COA representative. Other COA members are asked to attend if possible.

C. Mara and Susan Carp have been working on reformatting the Senior Notes newsletter. A mock up will be sent to the designer with September as the target date. Mara will send to the Board electronically over the summer; then give to ASA to review. A proposal was made to change the logo in the header. Karen Nichols offered to proofread.

V. Executive Director's Report

A. An update was given regarding housing for the victims of the fire at Arizona Terrace. There is no access to apartments that are deemed

structurally unsound. The AHC has worked to place seniors and the American Red Cross has provided aid. Susan is following up.

B. The COA and ASA are cooperating in the creation of a Standards of Independence and Behavior for the senior center. The committee will consist of Malcolm Hamilton, pres., Noreen Murphy, Mark Waksmonski, Jim Munsey, a staff social worker, and the ED. The committee will adapt other existing policies to the Arlington site. It was proposed that the town counsel review the document before it is adopted.

C. The ED is working on submitting a feasibility study on the Senior Center as requested by Fin Comm.

VI. Other Reports

A. Noreen Murphy attended the open session of Minuteman Senior Services held on May 12, 2015. Their annual budget is 16 million dollars.

B. Friends of the COA

1. Jim Munsey remarked that neither the Friends nor the COA were acknowledged at the April 27, 2015, Board of Selectmen meeting.
2. The COA needs to know when the Friends are scheduled to meet so the COA can present the board's budget needs. Mara will contact Ken Greenly.
3. ED pointed out it was easier to have the Friends write checks for invoices from grants than the town.
4. Friends are hosting a COA fund raiser at Brightview on June 20th.

VII. New Business

A. The following officers were elected: Mara will reappoint as chairperson, Jim will be vice-chair, and Marge was voted in as secretary. Ann Fitzgerald is submitting paperwork to come back on the Board as a voting member. Sue Culhane is working on recruiting another member to the board to fill a vacancy.

B. Paul Raia brought up the Vision 20/20 report. Demographics were discussed. There are approximately the same number of school age children

as seniors yet town funding is heavily weighted on funding the schools. Ann will check the Master Plan. A letter to Carol Kowalski will be drafted.

VIII. Old Business

Funding for the COA needs to be submitted to the town over the summer if possible. Networking with Fin Comm and Health and Human Services was discussed. ED suggested a presentation on ACMI may help reach our audience.

IX. Other Business

ED remarked that the “Mindfulness” course offered at the COA has been filled for a third time. The article, “Dangers of Loneliness,” was in *The Boston Globe*, April 25, 1015. Need to spread knowledge of services to others.

X. Adjourned at 7:10PM