

Arlington Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes December 17, 2015

Present: Mara Klein Collins, Jim Munsey, Noreen Murphy, Sue Culhane, Dick Phelps, Paul Raia, Ann Fitzgerald, Jill Greenlee and Marge Vanderhill.
Associate members present: Karen Nichols

I. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Mara Klein Collins at 6:04PM on December 17, 2015, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

Citizen's Open Forum: No one present.

II. Old Business: The COA subcommittee's report on walkways and entrance at the Senior Center.

Subcommittee members: Jim Munsey, Ann Fitzgerald, Noreen Murphy, and Mara Klein Collins

A. Mara will request that members of the COA board be placed on the Redevelopment Board agenda. The next meeting for the Redevelopment Board is January 11, 2016, at 7PM.

B. The subcommittee will create a position paper that can be presented.

C. Susan Carp will request incident reports from Doug Heim adding that seniors have been unable to come to the center for counseling due to difficulty of access.

D. Susan will check with the Planning Committee where the senior center is on the priority list for sidewalk repairs.

III. Report of the Chair

The finalized Vision 20/20 survey questions from the COA will be in the Town Survey. Noreen Murphy thanked the 20/20 Committee for all their help.

IV. Executive Director's Report

A. There are five part time drivers covering van ridership. Susan is looking into why ridership is down.

B. Responses from seniors and volunteers were positive following the delivery of 110 Thanksgiving meals to isolated seniors. There is follow up with approximately seventy percent of the seniors reached.

C. Susan submitted the Grant Wish List to the Friends of the COA for 2016. Some monies requested are:

1. A grant of \$5,000 was requested to help cover the costs of transportation.
2. A grant of \$8,000 was requested to maintain the Internet based subscription for the “My Senior Center” management and reporting system.

D. Mara will try to coordinate the COA and Friends schedules to establish more dialogue. She will offer to make the COA presentation to the Friends.

E. Ann Fitzgerald will coordinate with Susan on a COA presentation to the “Coffee and Conversation” group, volunteers for the COA and Arlington Senior Association, which next meets Jan 25, 2016, at 10AM. Mara thought the presentation should be made to the ASA Board first. Dick Phelps suggested the presentation be placed on cable TV to reach a boarder audience.

F. A new round of nurses from various institutions will begin their internships mid-January 2016. They follow up with addressing the needs of isolated seniors.

G. There has been a significant increase in scams targeting seniors that have resulted in a high use of staff time. A scam page is available on the Arlington Police website.

V. Other Reports

A. Minuteman Senior Services Liaison: no one present. It was decided Minuteman be taken off the agenda unless requested.

B. Friends of the COA: no representative

VI. Minutes of the November 19, 2015, were accepted, moved by Noreen Murphy

VII. New Business: Paul Raia reporting

A. AARP is offering a supplies kit and mentor to access whether cities/towns are “Aging Friendly Communities.” Paul will investigate further but it will require a commitment from the Redevelopment Board, Town Manager, and the Board of Selectmen.

B. Let Susan and Mara know any new business so it can be added to the agenda before the Board meets.

C. Check the Newsletter online for inquiries regarding support groups.

D. Dick Phelps requested the picture of the senior center be removed from the Newsletter and replaced with the town seal. Mara will do this.

VIII. Other Business: Noreen Murphy would like a suggestion box for future candidates placed under the “I made a difference” poster in the lobby.

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 7:20PM. Noreen Murphy so moved, and Jim Munsey seconded.