

## Arlington Council on Aging Meeting Minutes, March 15, 2018

**Present:** Jim Munsey, Rick Fentin, Ann Fitzgerald, Paul Raia, Mara Klein Collins, Jill Greenlee, and Marge Vanderhill. Joe Curro, BOS representative. Associates present: Bob Tosi, Karen Nichols, and Susan Carp, ED  
**Absent:** Noreen Murphy and Dick Phelps

A. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Mara Klein Collins at 6:00PM on March 15, 2018, at 27 Maple Street, Arlington, MA.

B. Citizen's open forum: Michael Ruderman as an observer.

C. Minutes of February 15, approved. Rick moved and Jim seconded.

D. Report of the Chair: Mara will submit a question regarding seniors at the candidate's night on March 28.

E. Executive Directors Report: Period Covered February- March 2018

1. Interviews have begun for Volunteer and Transportation Coordinator position.
2. Through Earmark funding we have secured a contract LICSW, Sarah Gupta, to assist with the SNAP applications through June 30, 2018.
3. We have been able to serve 67 households with an impact to 132 Arlington residents from the donations through the Arlington Heating Assistance program. CDBG grant requests have been submitted. On February 26, Julie Waymen, CDBG grant administrator will be presenting the requests to the Selectmen.
4. The COA and the Arlington Fire Department have teamed up, utilizing funds from the Earmark grant to offer FREE smoke detectors/carbon monoxide detectors and subsequent installation. This program is now open and will cease when the grant ceases June 30, 2018. So far twenty-two seniors have taken advantage of free detectors. Firefighters also check homes for other safety issues.
5. Thanks to the Earmark grant we will be able to temporarily establish Friday van service again. This will only be through June 30. Arlington seniors may also participate in the on-going CDBG funded Dial a Ride program.
6. The Volunteer Recognition lunch is tentatively slated for Wednesday, April 25.
7. ED has secured a date from the Middlesex DA Marion Ryan, APD Chief Ryan, MMSS Protective to host a large community event June 14, 2018 re: Elder Abuse and to recognize those who have upheld senior economic and personal safety. This event will coincide with International Elder Abuse Aware Day. It will include a panel discussion and free lunch for those who register. Volunteers are needed for this event. More details to follow.
8. Omissions/Additions will be addressed in the meeting.

F. Minuteman Senior Services Report:

1. A Legislative breakfast was held on March 7. Representatives Sean Garballey, Kate Hogan, and Jay Kaufman were present. Marian Ryan, Middlesex D.A., was the keynote speaker. The topic was legislative support for protective services and the prevention of elder abuse. The panel highlighted a diminished labor pool, lack of affordable housing, and isolation as part of the problem. 30,000 calls of elder abuse are reported each year, ten percent of the MA senior population.
2. Highlighting the importance of the Meals on Wheels program, Minuteman has initiated "March for Meals" for this month.
3. Increase pay for personal care assistants and home care providers is needed to retain and attract personnel.

G. Old Business:

1. Driveway construction has been delayed until late fall of this year.
2. Building Renovation Status: RFP has gone out and \$300-400k has been allocated for bids. The COA will need to find another site during the building process. Parmenter School was mentioned by Joe Curro as a possibility.
3. Age Friendly Update: Kia is reading the survey and interacting with residents of the Arlington Housing Authorities.
4. Earmark funds: Susan has done an excellent job of spending the monies on innovative programs and necessary upgrades such as door activators on bathrooms.

H. Other business:

1. Arlington for all ages 5k race will probably be the Sunday after Labor Day, September 9. Volunteers are needed to cover the race.
2. 2018 Board openings need to be posted. Nominations should be brought to the next COA meeting.
3. Joe Curro reported that warrant articles will be presented regarding home rule petition and raising minimum income limits for deferred taxation.
4. Bob Tosi reported on Cultural Competency/Cultural Humility Training.

I. Adjourn: Meeting was adjourned at 7:22pm. Jill moved and Rick seconded.