

COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
MARCH 8, 2005

In Attendance: Brian Macleod, Becky Moriarty, Al Ouimet, Ruth Haley, Virginia Schneider, Pat Clark, John Flynn, Rita Vail

Absent: John Shay, Shirley Gouvan, Arlene Fisher

Brian called the meeting to order at 8:35 am

The Secretary's report was reviewed and accepted

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted

- It was noted that the COA grant monies still have not been received
- The **utilities and building maintenance** costs will fall short this year; see later notes on the Advisory Board meeting

The Director's report was reviewed and accepted

- The Library will use the Senior Center for the **Book Club Forum** April 10th. They will make a donation to help defray the cost for opening the building.
- Training for the **BRIDGES** program began last week; there is still a need for senior volunteers to Participate in this.
- March 10th Peg McDonough will give a presentation on **Reverse Mortgages** at 12:15.
- **The Republican** has resumed daily delivery of the newspaper to the Center
- The **picture rails** in the craft room are installed. Marty Artioli donated his time to install and paint these for us. They look great. Artwork displays will be changed periodically
- Thus far, 6 people have offered to donate funds for 6 of the new **dining room chairs**. The monies will go through The Friends.

The Advisory Board Meeting was held on February 28th. As per their request Becky compiled a **revised budget**, which reflects the reinstatement of 7 clerical hours, step raises or cost of living increases for staff, and an additional \$4,000 for building maintenance cost overruns. We will be advised at a later date if any extra monies become available to fund these revisions. They also requested that we identify which need would be most prevalent in serving the needs of the Senior Center: salary increases or the reinstatement of clerical hours. After discussion the consensus was that the clerical hours would be the preferred choice if one had to be made.

The funding for the sign should be approved at the 12:30 meeting of The Friends of The Seniors today. Work can then commence on this.

At the Selectmen's meeting the subject of the **building usage policy** was brought up. They suggested that there was potential for usage fees to be utilized as a means of offsetting expenses for the Senior Center. Becky has received building usage policies from Longmeadow, Pepperell and Greenfield COA's. She noted that Greenfield had included a statement regarding usage by political groups as well. As this had been a concern last year for us, it was felt that we should incorporate a statement about this in our policy. MCOA has placed a request in its newsletter for us to obtain other COA's policies, so there may be more forthcoming. It was agreed that individual members would take time before the next meeting to review the policies that we have already received, to highlight sections that would pertain to us and at our next meeting we will donate a portion of the time to begin developing the policy. If it was then felt that a subcommittee was needed to complete the task it will be established then.

Becky received a letter from the Hampden Memorial Park Project requesting use of the building for a fund raising dinner in the fall. The initial concern was that this was an endeavor that many townspeople would want to participate in and that our facilities would not be adequate. Rita Vail mentioned the possibility of the memorial park group and the Friends of Hampden Seniors teaming up for this dinner.

Ruth requested that the Tiger Cub Den assist Arlene with the spring clean up of the Center on May 14th from 8:30 to 10:30am. It was expressed that they would have one-on-one parental supervision, Arlene will delegate and oversee the tasks and they would only enter the building for bathroom usage when accompanied by their parent. The Board agreed to this plan.

Becky is in need of a performance review, reflecting her competency level in her role as director. This will not impact her salary but will provide an update for her file. Pat will access the form used previously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 a.m. Our next meeting will be Tuesday April 12th at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Haley, Secretary