

COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
MAY 17, 2005

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

Absent: Shirley Gouvan

Attending: Bill Olmstead

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 have been received
- building maintenance funds are running low, there is a question of a need to transfer monies to provide for this

The Director's report was reviewed and accepted

- There will be a meeting with Becky and the Selectmen Tuesday May 24th at 7:00pm at the Town Hall. Please try to attend.
- Spring clean up of the grounds was done Saturday May 14th by George and Arlene with the aide of the Tiger Cubs. Den in town. Arlene will be submitting a picture and information to the Scribe to acknowledge the scouts work.
- The Senior Center will participate in the Memorial Day parade. Line-up is at 9 am at St Mary's Church.
- The 2 senior aides, Midge and Reggie, will have their time with us completing July 1st. Due to the closing of the Center Becky will contact the program to see if the new aide can be located elsewhere in the town, so that the position is maintained.
- the armchairs for the dining room have arrive. All ten were paid for by individual donations through the Friends
- Events for the month of May: Frigos is hosting a cooking demonstration May 17th at 1:00. May 19th the Elder Law Program will be presented by Atty Ronda Parish, May 26th is the TWB Kids Reading Program and May 30th is the Memorial Day Parade.
- The shuffleboard court is peeling, Sherwin –Williams (who was the manufacturer of the paint) had a representative evaluate it. They are going to provide us with painting/etching supplies at no cost, though we will have to pay for labor to have the courts stripped and repainted.

The citizens of Hampden turned down the proposition 2 ½ override during a special vote on May 16th. The specific impact on the Senior Center is that the building will be closed on July 1st. The monies to maintain the facility will be only to insure that there is no long-term damage to the building. It will not be enough to have the building utilized.

Specific Programs:

- The Lunch Program, granted by Greater Springfield Senior Services, will continue. It will have to be relocated.
- The Outreach Program, funded by a Title 3 grant through the Greater Springfield Senior Services, will continue. It will have to be relocated. There is a question that there may be a breach of contract without a director overseeing the program. Becky will look into what the regulations are and then we will discuss how the requirements can be met, so that the program is maintained. The monies provided for this are \$8,418 annually, 12 hours weekly. There is a need for increased funding and hours in town for this. Becky will see if there is an option available to increase our funding.
- There are State Formula grant monies of \$5,126 annually. This is provided as long as there is an active COA board. The monies are allocated to us to be used for activities for our senior population, This can be utilized for other center needs – maintenance is not one of them.

- The Friends, a private organization, will continue. The option of them shouldering the loss of funding from the town is deemed unfeasible. They will continue to work to assist with funding for specific programs, and way to enhance life for our town's seniors.

Becky spoke with Elder Affairs and learned that a COA is not state mandated, there are no requirements for a town to maintain a Senior Center. The COA board will carry on so that we can continue to receive state grant monies, determine ways to best provide for the town's seniors, and pursue budget requests for the Center.

There was discussion as to how to maintain Becky's role. Thoughts about combining the position of director/ and out reach provider were considered. There is a need to identify what the "bottom line" from the town budgeting will be, and then further evaluation as to what our options with the state funding are. This will be tabled until our next meeting when we have a more definitive idea of our budget options.

Pat recommended that the final issue of "The Scribe" have a front page letter from the COA board that expresses our thoughts on the vote, the impact to the senior citizens in our community, as well as the fact that the center will be closed as of July 1st.

At the meeting with the Selectmen on Tuesday May 24th there is a need to discuss building maintenance concerns, question if the parking lot can be used, look at any options for program funding/salary for a director, clarify where those programs which will be maintained can be located, as well as any other concerns that may be identified prior to that meeting.

The grant writing for the state is due by this Friday, Becky will ask for an extension to complete this.

Bill Olmstead recommended that we present a decreased budget proposal at the special town meeting in October.

Becky is in need of a performance review, reflecting her competency level in her role as director. Ruth, Rita and Pat will meet Friday morning May 20th at 8:30 am to work on this. Evaluations were given to all members so that they could provide their input and submit it prior to that meeting.

Becky is expecting November 3rd of this year. Congratulations!! No matter what the future holds time off for her will be needed at that time.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 am. Our next meeting will be Tuesday May 31st at 8:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Haley, Secretary