

COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING

August 2005

In Attendance: Brian MacLeod, Becky Moriarty, Al Ouimet, Ruth Haley, Arlene Fisher, Rita Vail, Virginia Schneider

Absent: Shirely Gouvan, Pat Clark, John Shay

Guest: 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 Selectmen have budgeted \$5,000 for building maintenance items, e.g. heat, electricity throughout the upcoming fiscal year

The Director's Report-

The Meal Program

-GSSSI is delivering frozen meals for any citizens who need meals over the weekends-it does involve them heating the meals

-the numbers at the meal site are down according to Brian

- It was noted that Gen has taken on her role as coordinator for the meal site enthusiastically. She has created a brochure titled the "Hampden Meal Site Grapevine" It contains notes, trivia and monthly menu for our citizens.

+The **Outreach Program**, funded by a Title 3 grant through the Greater Springfield Senior Services, will continue

Becky and Ruth have begun to interview candidates for the position. There are 4 hopeful prospects. They plan to complete the process and make a decision at the end of this week.

-The candidate will be made aware that they are expected to work out of the town hall, meal site, and commons as well as home visits.

-The Grant expires October 1st. Becky has reapplied for this.

-The COA board can act as supervising unit to this position. There will be a need, once Becky is gone, to co-sign monthly reports and check? weekly? on how the coordinator is doing.

+The **Senior Aid position** was to be filled by Jane. Jane will not be coming. Becky had explained the situation to her, including the need to be on her own most of the time. She opted not to come. The volume of people coming in and out of the office has declined considerably. GSSSI has assured us that the position for the aid would not be jeopardized and the position could be filled when the Senior Center reopens.

+**Building Maintenance** is being done by The DPW. Rudie and George have been checking on the building weekly. Pest Control is spraying monthly. Waste Management is still coming to empty the container, even though it is empty. Becky has been in touch with them to reiterate that their service is discontinued.

+Becky is working 9-11 Tuesday and 9-11 on Wednesdays

There is a need to track the negative impact of the closing, and also the effects to the townspeople should it continue to remain closed next year. We will address this at our next meeting.

Arlene got a gift certificate for Tedi- Ann as a farewell gift from the Council. Thank you.

Becky expressed concern about not being aware of individuals in town who may need assistance. Due to the location of the office now there is less opportunity for her to "keep her eyes and ears open" for individuals being mentioned. She asked that we assist her in being aware of any potential persons and make her aware.

Bill Olmstead is working to put together a **publication to keep townspeople abreast** of what is continuing not only with the COA but also the library, Park and Rec, etc. Bill is looking for support both physically and financially, The program is “on hold” until support and coordination can be established.

- +The Council lauded this

- +There was expressed concern that the “tone” of the publication be informative versus allowing a critical/frustrated feeling be shown

- +Brian felt the Friends of Bethlehem Baptist would support this with some monetary funding.

- +We would like to have the Outreach news included in this- for example there is new information from Medicare forthcoming that can be confusing for many individuals

Becky has sent the **annual report** to the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

The open position for an “**under 60” board member** will be advertised.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 am. Our next meeting will be Tuesday September 13,2005 at 8:30 am. in the COA office at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted.

Ruth Haley, Secretary