

COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
September 13, 2005

In Attendance: Brian MacLeod, Becky Moriarty, Arlene Fisher, Rita Vail, Virginia Schneider, Shirley Gouvan, Pat Clark, John Shay

Absent: Al Ouimet, Ruth Haley

Guest: Bill Olmstead

Brian called the meeting to order at 8:35 am

The **Secretary's report of August 9, 2005** was reviewed and accepted on September 13, 2005.

The **Treasurer's report** was reviewed and accepted

The **Director's Report** was reviewed and accepted

- New outreach coordinator, Sue LaMondia was hired and started work on 9/7/05
- New phone system for senior center office should be operational within the month
- Hampden Wilbraham Times to advertise under 60 opening on the board
- Bill Olmstead started a new community newsletter, thanks
- Open public forum scheduled for 9/21/05
- Becky will attend Annual Director's Conference in Sturbridge, MA at no cost

Discussion of Negative Impacts on the Closing of the Senior Center

- Loss of Socialization
- Loss of SCRIBE
- Those people who are not mobile are suffering
- Loss of exercise programs in a common meeting place

Shirley Gouvan asked what the possibilities would be of the East Longmeadow Senior Center "taking over" the Hampden Senior Center for a time. Wondering if it is possible to have a "regionalized" senior center. There would need to be cooperative efforts between the 2 towns. Brian stated that the idea would need to be presented to the Selectmen in both towns and he will talk to the Selectmen's office regarding this idea.

For the next newsletter that Bill puts together it was noted that specific numbers should go in to show what the impact on specific programs has been in response to the closing of the center. People in town had mentioned that the senior center looks like "it's doing okay without a building" but people might not be aware that numbers of participants has dropped in all programs. Pat Clark offered to work on categorizing percentages and will give these to Bill. Arlene offered to call the different programs and get actual numbers of participants.

Sue LaMondia, new outreach coordinator, came into the meeting and met everyone in attendance. Sue told the board a little bit about herself and is glad to be working here in Hampden. The COA Board will take on the responsibility of overseeing the outreach program when Becky leaves on maternity.

The Brown Bag program continues and Arlene, John, Rita and Virginia will be available to volunteer this month.

The meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 11,2005 at 8:30 A.M. in the COA office at the Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted for the Secretary,
Becky Moriarty