

COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
December 13, 2005

In Attendance: Brian Macleod, , Al Ouimet, Ruth Haley, Shirley Gouvan, Rita Vail, Virginia Schneider, John Shay, Pat Clark

Attending: Bill Olmstead

Brian called the meeting to order at 8:30 am

The Secretary's report was reviewed and accepted

The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted, it was noted that revolving accounts are balancing and the building maintenance account of \$5,000 now has a balance of \$2,492.

The town has winterized The Senior Center. Termite services, which average \$25-30 monthly, will be placed on hold until spring

There is no Director's Report-we are delighted that Becky and Madeline are having some time together.

Rita and Pat attended the Department Head Meeting,Some departments submitted 2 budgets, including the COA

Both proposed budgets reflect salary step-level and cost of living increases

The Level funded budget identifies the cost of the center being opened 29 hours/week.

The Zero-Based budget identifies the cost of the center being opened 20 hours/week.

The impression they had was that they would present our level funded budget with the possibility of some "trimming"

The zero-based budget proposal would be a "back-up"

They are still in the planning stages at this time

They also met with the school committee and they informed the members that the town's main objective is to restore services and that they would like the schools to stay within a certain % of increase otherwise there would need to be a school budget override presented separately to the towns.

Mary Malinski has accepted the under 60-position open on our board. She was unable to attend today due to illness.

There was discussion regarding Arlene's position. We all felt that even though her resignation had been accepted we would like to wait until spring to appeal to her to return. She was a wonderful, active member and we would be pleased to have her return to her position if she feels able to at that time.

Due to the storm, the Tax Seminar has been rescheduled. It will be held January 6, 2006 at 1pm in the Town house.

There is a new federal program incorporating computer data for the meal programs. This is not a screening program but rather an information gathering system to identify things as demographics and reasons for participating in the programs. Gen Ford will coordinate this.

Individuals or groups may call for ideas in ways to help the seniors in town. Suggestions of Village Mart gift certificates, PVRTA bus tickets, contributing to the fuel fund, and adding their names to the list of "helpers" for senior resident could be presented to them.

Bill Olmstead - representing the "Moving Ahead" publication gathered information regarding transportation access and making people aware of "needs lists"

This can be a two-fold list. One being a list of individuals with potential needs, e.g. grocery shopping, transportation, shoveling, visits, etc. and the second being a list of citizens who could be available to provide these services.

We continue to have a phone system that does not allow our residents to access the COA directly; they must leave a voicemail message. There is concern that many people may not leave a message, thereby making it impossible for us to be aware of a need. Pam Courtney has been calling the phone company to try to get this issue resolved. She did so again after the meeting today.

The GSSS annual meeting will be February 8th at Chez Josef. Rita and John will attend. The main speaker will address Social Security issues.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 am. Our next meeting will be Tuesday January 10, 2006 at 8:30 AM. in the COA office at the Town Flail.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Haley, Secretary