

The meeting was called to order at 4 PM on Thursday, December 4, 2008.

Members present:

Anita Benware

Sharon Bloom, Chair

Constance Cleary

Irene Camerano, Treasurer

Barbara Foster, Vice Chair

Mary Higgins

Ellen Sesia, Secretary

Members absent: Debra MacLennan, Peter Watson, Ken Day, Associate.

Karen Phillips, Director, was also in attendance.

The Secretary's report was read and accepted as read. It was noted that the Treasurer's report will be included in the minutes.

Irene Camerano gave the Treasurer's report. The revolving account consisted of \$17,165.16 at the end of October 2008. At the end of November, the revolving account had increased to \$17,789.26. The gift account remains at \$7596.07. The COA still has \$7787.03 in the expense account. The Treasurer's report was accepted as read.

New Senior Center – The Board of Selectmen questioned the necessity of the COA Building Research Committee. The Selectmen have requested a meeting with the entire COA Board on December 17th at 7 PM. Karen Phillips requested that the COA board be the first item on the agenda. Karen Phillips mailed a summary sheet to everyone concerning the pros and cons of the various sites considered for the Senior Center. This report was also submitted at the Department Head meeting. Karen also noted that the necessity for a new Senior Center has been discussed and considered for the last five years.

Budget – Karen presented the different aspects of the budget. The report included the wages (\$64,368), home care, Montachusett Home Care Corp., to cover services (\$600), Mini Van expenses (\$1500), Title 7 Nutrition, MOC and WHEAT Services (\$5000), and the Senior Center Expenses, which cover everything in regards to running the center itself (\$11,639). We have been asked to budget in order to maintain services as necessary. The only increases proposed are 3% for wages and 3% for expenses. Karen reported that money from the budget that is not used is returned to the Town of Sterling. The town has also asked each department to determine a 10% reduction scenario. This was discussed and, if necessary, the senior center would be closed on Friday with no van service and no meals. The impact could be serious for our seniors. We would also have to cut the expense/supply account. This would result in no parties and no entertainment for the year. Karen noted that our budget is less than 1% of the town budget.

Christmas Party – The Christmas Party on Sunday, December 7th still has no Santa, but one will be found. All refreshments are planned and will be used. The entire board will be helping.

Yard Sale – It was voted and accepted that the COA Yard Sale will be on September 19, 2009 as part of the town wide yard sale. Irene Camerano made the motion, and Barbara Foster seconded it.

Bake Sale – The bake sale was a great success. We made \$467.65. Irene Camerano stated that Myrtle Ash was very grateful to everyone for a successful bake sale.

Upcoming events – Karen Phillips reported that the children from Houghton School will be here at the center to entertain on December 15th at 10:30 AM. The Senior Breakfast at Chocksett School will be on Wednesday, December 17th at 9 AM. On Monday, December 29th, the Girl Scouts might be coming to the Senior Center to host a bingo afternoon. We are awaiting the confirmation of this program. A boy scout approached Karen about doing an Eagle Project on energy conservation for seniors. He has not gotten back to us on a date. The New Year's Eve Party will be on Wednesday, December 31st at 10 AM.

File of Life – Barbara Foster told the board about the File of Life and showed them an example that she received from her daughter. It was noted how important and helpful this program is for all.

Next meeting – The meeting in January will be on the 8th, as the 1st is a holiday, at 4 PM.

Sharon Bloom made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Anita Benware seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Sesia
Secretary