

The Council on Aging Meeting was called to order at 4 PM on Thursday, September 1, 2011 in the Senior Center.

Members present:

Anita Benware

Sharon Bloom, Chair

Irene Camerano

Barbara Foster, Vice Chair

Mary Higgins, Secretary

Debra MacLennan

Susan Duquette, Associate

Ken Day, Associate

Members absent: Constance Cleary, Treasurer, Ellen Sesia, Peter Watson

Karen Phillips, Director, was also in attendance.

Minutes: Barbara made a motion to accept the minutes. Anita seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Treasurer's report: Barbara made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Anita seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sterling Senior Center Site Development Committee: Sharon reported that her committee has decided against leasing and decided not to look at any property or buildings that have already been looked into and rejected. The committee is currently looking at town owned property, such as the lot at the corner of Boutelle and Muddy Pond and a lot on Griffin Road. The committee would like to suggest 2 different sites. The committee would like to see 100 more people coming into this Senior Center before recommending a new site. Their next meeting will be the 2nd Monday in September at 6 PM in the Senior Center. All are welcome.

Yard Sale/Bake Sale: The volunteers will be setting up at 6:30 on Friday night. We could use all the help we can get. The sale runs from 8 – 2 on Saturday.

Director's hours: With the loss of comp time and flex time, in order for Karen to work weekends or attend meetings as directed by the COA, she will need to take time off during the week in order to maintain 35 hours a week and not incur overtime. Having set hours will make it difficult to fulfill all the duties needed. Mary made a motion to allow Karen to work her 35 hours in any fashion that she finds fit in order to fulfill the duties required by the COA. Deb seconded it. All were in favor.

Shed: After a discussion about where to put it and the cost, Barbara made a motion to put the idea of a shed on hold. Irene seconded this motion. All were in favor.

My Senior Center: Karen explained this tracking program to the council. It is a swipe card system which keeps track of all of the comings and goings at the Senior Center on a computerized system, allowing for better record keeping. There have been a lot of questions about usage, and the number, while attainable, takes time to track down. This system will make the process much easier and faster. There are 2 versions. The original version is \$7500. There is also a sponsor based program which puts ads on the system when not in use which costs \$3700. After some discussion, it was decided that Karen should call and set up a meeting for the board to see how the program works.

MCOA meeting: The annual MCOA meeting will be in Sturbridge this year on October 5, 6, and 7. Karen will be attending all 3 days. If any member is interested in attending, please see Karen by September 20th to sign up.

Staying open: The board is interested in exploring the idea of opening at night to accommodate seniors who are still working and/or busy during the day. Deb would like to run a candy making class on Wed., October 12th from 4 – 7 with pizza. She would like 8 – 10 people at \$2 a person to cover expenses. Sharon will open the Senior Center on Wed., October 26 for a game night. The board will reassess in November after seeing how these classes fared.

Topics for future meetings: update on yard sale/bake sale; Saturday brunch

Director's report: The Senior Center will be closed Monday for Labor Day. There will be a play next Thursday, September 8th at 12:30 PM. Steve Henderson will be presenting "Jerry Atric". Mary will contact people for desserts. On the 12th we are having a program on what to look for in a home health agency. The 17th is the Yard Sale. September 22nd is the book club. There will be chair yoga on Wednesday, September 28th. The van had 22 unduplicated riders last month and went 1,448 miles. Danielle Ray is doing an article about the van and took a picture for the Meetinghouse News. Karen talked to Judy Janda about availability at the 1835 Town Hall for programs. They will work together to schedule something over the next few months. Karen will look into the possibility of getting a podiatrist to come to the Senior Center. We are looking for a computer teacher.

The warrant was passed for signatures.

Next meeting is Thursday, October 6, 2011.

Barbara made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mary seconded it. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Higgins, Secretary