

The Council on Aging meeting was called to order at 4 PM on Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Senior Center.

Members present:

Anita Benware

Sharon Bloom, Chair

Constance Cleary, Treasurer

Barbara Foster, Vice Chair

Mary Higgins, Secretary

Debra MacLennan

Ellen Sesia

Peter Watson

Susan Duquette, Associate

Ken Day, Associate

Members absent: Irene Camerano

Director, Karen Phillips, was also in attendance.

Minutes – Ellen made a motion to accept the minutes from October. Connie seconded the motion. All were in favor.

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

Volunteers' Strata Brunch – The brunch will be November 19<sup>th</sup> at 11 AM, \$3.00 a person. Pam Dell gave a quick talk about the menu. Sharon volunteered to make the fruit cups. Several board members volunteered to make coffee cake and/or to serve.

Friends' Group Update – Pam Dell, Secretary, gave a brief report on the Friends' Group. Maureen Cranson is the president. Dick Maki is the Vice President. Helen Hill is the treasurer. The group has met several times. They opened an account and a PO Box. They are working on the paperwork to file with the Attorney General's Office. Once established, there will be dues of \$5.00 a year for membership. There can be a liaison from the COA to the Friends' board. Sharon appointed Mary Higgins to be the liaison.

Site Development Committee Update – Sharon reported that there may be a problem with the property near the school. The Site Development Committee will meet with the Conservation Commission at their next meeting to discuss any issues.

Site Development Committee Recommendations – The Site Development Committee has a list of recommendations to go to the Board of Selectmen. Sharon decided to discuss the recommendations, but not vote, as the site may be in jeopardy. For item 1, the board had no issues with looking into grants when appropriate. Karen reported that she, with help from Dick Maki, recently applied for a grant to try and start at SALT, Seniors and Law Enforcement Together, program. For Item 2, the Board is in full support of a Friends' group. We had tried to get someone to start this up for years and are very grateful for the group for getting this going. For Item 3, the board feels that we do have a viable network of volunteers. Karen reported that last year we thanked 92 volunteers. She reported that we would not be able to run the center without the help of our volunteers. For Item 4, the board has already approved a job description for an outreach worker and has started the steps to hire someone for this position. Karen has a list of seniors over 80 who live alone, or only with a spouse, that she would like any outreach to start with. For Item 5, the board has been working on expanding programs at night. A chair yoga class was recently started and other programs are in the works. The board feels that once the My Senior Center program is up and running, an accurate count of all programs will be achieved. There was a lot of discussion over the recommendation that 50% or more of the cost should come from "sources other than local taxation." A board member questioned if the police, library, or fire departments were also required to meet this recommendation. She also felt that the seniors in this town are tax payers who have paid for other services in this town and should not have to jump through hoops to get a Senior Center.

Future dinners – No dinners are planned at this time.

Tag line contest – Karen reported that we received 25 submissions for tag lines. She gave all of the members a list of the suggestions, without the names of who submitted which one. The board was very impressed by the suggestions. The board was able to narrow the list down to their 4 favorites: Having a Sterling Attitude; Live, Love, Laugh – Be Happy; Continue to Grow with Us in Mind, Spirit, and Body; and Living Out Our Sterling Years Together. These final four will be advertised for the seniors to vote for the winner. The winner will be announced in February.

Evening programs – Deb reported that the candy making class went well. She is willing to run another class on Wednesday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM. There can only be 6 people, due to space constrictions. Not many people attended the evening games night. The board might revisit this in the spring.

New associate – Karen introduced Sue Doucette as a possible new associate member. Sue talked about her interest in being on the board and bringing a younger perspective. Barbara made a motion to make Sue an associate members. Peter seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Future meetings – Christmas party, possible change of time

Director's report – The van made 530 trips and went 1300 miles last month. Upcoming events: State Rep Kim Ferguson is coming for a coffee chat on Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>; the Flu Clinic will be Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup>; we will be closed on Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>; we are having a movie on Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>. No issues. Dick Maki and Greg Billings ran the wire for the My Senior Center. Karen will have a training on the program this month.

The warrant was passed for signatures.

The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 5 PM (note time change).

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

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Higgins  
COA Secretary