

The Council on Aging meeting was called to order on Thursday, January 20, 2011 at 4:05 PM. This meeting was called as the meeting on Thursday, January 6, 2011 was declared an illegal meeting due to incorrect posting information given out by the town clerk's office.

Members present:

Anita Benware

Barbara Foster, Vice chair

Mary Higgins, Secretary

Debra MacLennan

Peter Watson

Members absent: Sharon Bloom, Chair, Irene Camerano, Constance Cleary, Ellen Sesia, and Susan Duquette, Associate.

Ken Day, Associate, and Karen Phillips, Director, were also in attendance.

There was no Secretary's Report to read this month. It will be available next month.

There was no Treasurer's Report to read this month.

New Senior Center: There was a lot of talk about the Webster Vet Building. There is a lot of potential for the town with room for cable, Recreation, Senior Center, meeting space, etc.

BOS meeting on January 5 – Barbara thanked everyone who attended this meeting. She read Karen's letter into the record. Barbara did a good job answering questions from the Selectmen.

Building Community Support – We need as many board members and seniors as possible to attend the meetings of the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Capital Committee. We need to show that there is a lot of support for a new Senior Center. There was also some discussion about creating a video showing what the Senior Center currently looks like.

Vote to Pay for Inspections for Webster Vet Property – The Webster Vet property is probably going to need various inspections to answer questions about its viability as a Senior Center/Community Center. Mary made a motion to pay for these inspections. Anita seconded it. All were in favor.

Vote on Picchieri Property – Ron Picchieri was wondering if the board had changed their mind and would reconsider his plan for the old garage near Honey Farms. After some discussion, the board was

not interested. Peter made a motion to not reconsider the property. Mary seconded it. All were in favor.

Saturday Dinner – The board is interested in possibly having a Chinese luncheon on a Saturday. Karen will contact Maureen and see if she is willing and able to help with this. Connie had stated she would contact Bob's Turkey Farm, but due to family illness, she may not be able to follow through. Karen will see if we need someone who is ServSafe certified to hold a lunch.

Letters to the Editor – Peter feels that all future letters to the editor should be presented to the board before being sent out. There was some discussion. The board will vote on this issue next month.

Discussion of minutes from 1/7/10, 5/6/10, and 6/7/10 – Mike Forance had a question about a letter to the Finance Committee which the COA board discussed last January. Karen produced the letter in question, explained it was not an unduplicated count, and had already sent it to Larry Pape of the Finance Committee and to the Selectmen. There was a discussion about the unduplicated number of seniors who come to the Senior Center on a yearly basis. The main issue is that many seniors do not sign in. The meeting from 5/6 was discussed briefly in regards to the inspection reports for Twin Oaks and the old Four Acres Restaurant. Mike Rivers stated that the owners of these buildings might be willing to bring them up to code, which would save the town a lot of money. He felt that the board should reconsider these buildings, due to cost considerations. Mr. Rivers also mentioned a building on Pratts Junction, which is 11,000 sq. ft. The board was unaware of this building and will look into it further. Mr. Forance then asked about the computer program that the board voted to purchase at the 6/7/10 meeting. Karen explained that we have the program and that she is learning how to use it. The list of seniors is exempt from public records law, which limits who can assist with the program. Mr. Forance suggested that Karen ask the IT person for the town of Sterling to assist.

Discussion of Karen's letter to BOS – Mr. Rivers had an issue with his name being mentioned in Karen's letter to the BOS. Mr. Rivers and Karen had a meeting prior to this meeting where a lot of items were discussed. Karen felt that it was a good, productive meeting.

Mr. Rivers requested that the COA board offer an apology to Mr. Philpot regarding the letter to the editor which was written. The board will take this into consideration.

Topics for future meetings – No new topics were mentioned.

Director's report – There was no Director's Report this month.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Higgins, Secretary