

COUNCIL ON AGING
October 26, 2016 at 9:00 am
Middleton Senior Center

Members Present: Dr. Joan Shea-Desmond, Barbara Tilton, Barbara Sanborn, Martha Fucarile, Leah Magnifico, Carol Carr, Frank Leary, Alice Tierney,

Others Present: Susan Gannon, Executive Director
Leanna Harris, Recording Secretary

Absent: William Walczak, Kay Martinuk

Dr. Shea-Desmond called the meeting to order at **9:00 am**.

Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Carr moved to approve the Minutes from the September 28, 2016 meeting. Second by Ms. Tierney. All in favor.

On the Motion: Ms. Tilton stated she would like to add that the members were in agreement with her suggestion (Page 4) that each of the members sit at a different table during the Thanksgiving and holiday dinners.

Motion carried.

Director's Report

Ms. Gannon stated Sue Tilton gave 11 days notice and has moved on to do outreach in North Reading. She was doing both outreach and accounts payable here. Rhonda Draper has been coming in on Tuesdays and Thursdays to do the accounts payable part of the job. Patrick Maher, Charlene Peterson and Terry Getz are taking up the outreach portion of the job. Patrick was moved into that position and has been absolutely amazing. He is visiting Veterans in their homes, nursing homes and hospitals. Charlene Peterson is with us April through October each year. Last April Ms. Gannon started a new program where certain people receiving home deliveries needed more of a visit than just a drop in. Terry Getz has also been working with the home delivery meal program and is wonderful. Ms. Gannon is receiving great feedback that the extended visits are making a huge difference especially for those who are homebound. Ms. Getz is also visiting some people who don't get home delivery meals but have in the past. Everyone liked Sue Tilton, she did a great job but it has not been an issue reorganizing her job. Any serious outreach issues are taken care of Ms. Gannon or she refers Patrick to them. Ms. Gannon has hired Judy to continue working in the dining room.

Ms. Tilton asked if Patrick, Bill and the others are on the payroll and how that is being funded. Ms. Gannon confirmed that they are on the payroll and stated she already had funds to cover Patrick through grants. Sue Tilton's position was 19 ½ hours and with Rhonda Draper coming in averaging about ten hours that frees up some funds. Also under the grant program she has funds for nutrition which Ms. Gannon is using to pay Judy and Patrick.

Ms. Gannon stated there was a trip to the WWII Museum in Wolfeboro, NH and it was a wonderful. It was impossible to see everything and so they are planning to go back in the Spring. There won't be any trips scheduled for January and February. Trips will pick back up in the Spring. Ms. Carr commented that it's nice to see some focus on the Veterans.

Ms. Gannon stated beginning in the Spring they will go back to the WWII Museum, the USS Massachusetts in Fall River, the battleship in New Bedford, the Naval Base in Groton where you can tour a submarine, the Naval Base in Portsmouth and also Bath Iron Works which is in full operation and there is a river tour on the Kennebunk River. They are looking for more ideas.

Ms. Gannon stated they are still using the large van but they will not be getting the wheelchair lift fixed due to the extensive cost. The van is already ten years old and it's just not worth putting the \$6,000-8,000 in to fix the lift. It's not just a piece of the equipment, it's an electrical problem. Ms. Gannon is planning to propose to the Town to get a new 18 passenger van. The next opportunity for vans is late 2017, early 2018, the State is working on those contracts.

On Wednesday, November 9th is the Veteran event at the American Legion. The hall raised their rental fee from \$200 to \$300 and they would not give them a discount. The food cost has increased and it will be about \$19 per person. At first, it was going to be complimentary for a Veteran and two guests, however due to the cost increases it will now be complimentary for a Veteran, \$3 for immediate family members and \$4 for non-residents. This will be noted in the upcoming Newsletter.

Ms. Gannon stated everyone got notified regarding the Formula Grant. Ms. Gannon received an email last week that the legislature is 'clawing back' and so they cannot guarantee they will have the money. Everything needs to be rewritten and submitted under last year's parameters. Ms. Gannon stated they will be ok because they received more from the Title 3B grant than expected which makes up for the loss. They won't know until January what they will receive. Ms. Gannon encouraged members to let her know if they know of any other businesses that give community grants.

The Thanksgiving dinner is about \$22 per person. In the past the Mansfield Fund has paid for the first 165 people which meant they would cover anyone over that 165. They are proposing \$10 per person for Thanksgiving and so combining that with whatever amount the Town is going to cover they will get through Thanksgiving. For the holiday dinner, Angelicas is covering the first 150 plates. It is possible that they may have some funds left over from the Thanksgiving dinner which they can put towards the Holiday dinner. They are looking to get to the 225 people they had last year.

Chairperson's Report

Dr. Shea-Desmond stated they went to the JFK Library on Friday. The group was very excited and enthusiastic. People are more aware of the COA in town and she is hearing positive comments from everyone. The cultural activities are filling up fast and she is thinking down the road they should plan more. They receive positive comments everywhere they go about what a nice community they are. Even people who just drop in here say they have so much to offer. Mr.

Leary stated they need to recognize that they have great leadership and dedicated staff. Dr. Shea-Desmond agreed and stated that the staff is wonderful and everyone is so welcoming.

Committee Reports

- **Trips/Activities:** Ms. Fucarile stated they visited the Topsfield Fair on October 3rd. Bingo is still doing very good. Ms. Fucarile is going to dissolve knitting as there is no interest at this time. The Lunch Bunch went to Longhorn and then yesterday they went to Michael's Harborside which was very nice. There was a bus full and a car with three others.
- **Newsletter:** Ms. Gannon stated the Newsletter is in the works and will hopefully be sent out on Friday.
- **FRIENDS:** Ms. Tierney stated the Friends will contribute towards some of the meals for both the Thanksgiving and the holiday dinners. The Friends did pay for the trips for 2 or 3 winners who were picked. This morning they will have a presentation for the coffee station for Ethel. Ms. Tierney stated she picked up the afghans and quilts and sent the pictures she took to Ms. Gannon. The afghans go to Anna Jakes Hospital in Gloucester. Most of them are washed and reused. They were very grateful.
- **NSES:** Dr. Shea-Desmond stated the NSES annual board meeting is October 27, 2016. The public annual meeting has been canceled. The speaker has a family issue and so it will be rescheduled for early 2017. This will be Dr. Shea-Desmond's last meeting, Richard Muzi is assuming the position. There is a banquet on November 15th at Angelicas, however they will not have discounted tickets for seniors. Mr. Leary stated it's been a wonderful experience working with Dr. Shea-Desmond on that committee.
- **Food Pantry:** Mr. Leary stated Big Y moved into town and at first they had issues with Middleton not having a freezer truck to transport the meat. Mr. Leary worked it out with them that Big Y will freeze the meat before he picks it up and he guaranteed them he will have it to the freezer at the Food Pantry within 30 minutes.

Old Business

Ms. Gannon stated Andy Sheehan has agreed to come and speak to them regarding the Goddard School and their search for a new Center. Mr. Sheehan stated they have a committee that has been put together to study all of the facilities in Town. They are trying to find a consulting (architectural) firm to come up with a plan that would prioritize the buildings and provide cost estimates. Mr. Sheehan stated they have not yet issued a contract as they are having trouble coming to an agreement. They have \$50,000 available which is not enough money. They are looking at 6 buildings, in no particular order, the Senior Center, Memorial Hall, the Flint, the DPW, the Fire station and the Police station. The Flint and the DPW are lower on the list in terms of priority. Mr. Sheehan and Ms. Gannon looked at the Goddard School back in August. It's a beautiful facility and Mr. Sheehan thinks it could accommodate both Memorial Hall and the Senior Center. It is currently under a lease agreement but there is speculation the daycare will not thrive. Ms. Gannon stated the general consensus is that the Goddard reputation is so

damaged and they are starting enrollment late. Mr. Sheehan is hoping they will be far enough along in their facilities study if and when something occurs with the Goddard School lease.

Ms. Tilton stated there was a big article in AARP about the number of people who own their home outright, the number of people who have a mortgage on their condo and how they are all in their 50s and how that don't want to visit a senior center. Mr. Leary stated, in reality, it is a community center, they have Boy Scout and Girl Scout meetings here as well as other meetings. Mr. Leary stated voters need to be convinced that a larger space will be utilized. Mr. Sheehan agreed and stated they have to be convinced that they aren't competing with other community education programs.

Ms. Carr stated it shouldn't matter if there are two similar programs going on at the same time because certain programs will service one group and vice versa. It should be a community sharing, it should be all encompassing.

Mr. Sheehan stated it may make more sense for them to lease a space. Prevailing wages make it so expensive for the Town to build.

Ms. Gannon stated they are looking to have a community center to incorporate inter-generational programs, teen programs as well as senior programs. Mr. Sheehan stated he is unsure what the breadth of support for a community center is and he thinks that it needs to be marketed a bit more to grow that support. Ms. Gannon stated there is a large desire for a place for older kids to go in the evenings.

Mr. Sheehan asked for feedback on having a regional community center. The members discussed this opportunity and feel it could work. Ms. Gannon stated she thinks a joint venture with Topsfield and Middleton would work well, but she doesn't feel that Boxford would be interested.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Leary moved to adjourn the meeting at **10:10 am.**
Second by Ms. Tierney.
All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanna Harris, Recording Secretary