

COUNCIL ON AGING
October 28, 2015 at 9:15 am
Middleton Senior Center

Members Present: Joan Shea-Desmond, Chair, Barbara Tilton, Martha Fucarile, Barbara Sanborn, Frank Leary, Kay Martinuk, Leah Magnifico, Carol Carr

Absent: Susan Gannon, Executive Director
Susan McNeil, alt.

Dr. Shea-Desmond called the meeting to order at **9:15 am**.

Minutes:

MOTION: Mr. Leary moved to approve the September 30, 2015 Minutes. Second by Ms. Tilton. All in favor. Motion carries.

Director's Report:

On behalf of Ms. Gannon, Dr. Shea-Desmond reviewed the Director's Report. The \$10 charge for Thanksgiving was discussed and Ms. Carr stated the Board of Trade was also ok with it but not overly enthused about a fee for the Christmas dinner.

Chairperson's Report:

Dr. Shea-Desmond stated it is heartwarming to see so many attending their functions. She recently held a craft class and she heard positive comments as well as heard other towns are interested in joining. Mr. Leary added that they are blessed with a conscience staff. Dr. Shea-Desmond agreed and stated that when she first came to the Senior Center five years ago she remembers feeling very welcomed.

Committee Reports:

- **Trips** – Ms. Fucarile stated the Merrimack Mall was a wonderful day and they also went to the Common Man that day. The food was very good and they give large portions.
- **Activities:** Ms. Fucarile stated knitting has slowed down but BINGO is doing very well and they have three full tables. She is going to take a break from knitting and see if there is interest in the spring. Ms. Tilton stated she was happy to see in the Newsletter that they have specified that if you cannot handle yourself then you probably you shouldn't attend certain activities. Walking on uneven ground is tough and many places they go to are older and difficult to get around in. Ms. Carr suggested putting activity grade levels that specify wheelchair accessible, light to moderate activity, stairs, etc. Mr. Leary recommends keep things simple as liability issues can become a real problem. Ms. Martinuk stated it should just be clearly outlined in the Newsletter so it's in writing specifying there are lots of stairs, no elevators, etc.

MOTION: Ms. Carr moved to make a recommendation to the Director that the level of activity be put in writing for in each trip. Second by Mr. Leary.

All in favor.

Motion carries.

- **Newsletter** – Ms. Tilton stated the Newsletters went out in two days. They worked on them for five hours each day.
- **NSES** – Dr. Shea-Desmond stated the Board meeting is tomorrow followed by the dinner. They are still doing well financially. There has been a turnover of employees in the nutrition department. Dr. Shea-Desmond is attending the Prime Time Seminar – discussing Alternate Housing. A specialist for housing services will be there. Ms. Magnifico asked if there is a NSES posting at the Senior Center listing what is going on. Dr. Shea-Desmond agreed that is a good idea. Ms. Martinuk asked about it being put in the Newsletter.
- **TRIAD** – This is being held off until after the new year.
- **Food Pantry** – Mr. Leary stated the Food Pantry is going well. The biggest event will be the upcoming Thanksgiving dinners.

New Business:

Ms. Carr stated they had a wonderful meeting regarding with Lynn Boys and Girls Club regarding Creighton's Pond. They are very much at the grassroots phase. A lot of fundraising and homework needs to be done. The Town has questions what their financial role will be since it is privately owned. They are talking about a 16-20k square foot area to expand. There was discussion of an indoor swimming pool. They are trying to open it up to all genres, going from small children to seniors and melding different groups together. What seniors could do for toddlers and vice versa, what middle school children could do for younger children, etc. They discussed indoor activities, outdoor activities, parking, access in and out, people with special needs, etc. It is looking like a 7-8 year timeframe. Other Seniors Centers in the area such as Burlington and Newburyport will be looked at. Ms. Martinuk asked Ms. Carr where this will be located and Ms. Carr responded right up in Creighton's Pond. It's far but they did discuss transportation options.

Old Business:

Ms. Martinuk stated they used to be informed as to how many meals are being served, are there new people, are they maintaining, etc.? Dr. Shea-Desmond suggested asking Ms. Gannon for an update.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Tilton moved to adjourn the meeting at **9:52 am**. Second by Ms. Carr.

All in favor.

Motion carries.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanna Harris, Recording Secretary