

COUNCIL ON AGING
November 25, 2015 at 9:15 am
Middleton Senior Center

Members Present: Joan Shea-Desmond, Leah Magnifico, Barbara Sanborn,
Martha Fucarile, Frank Leary

Others Present: Susan Gannon, Executive Director

Absent: Barbara Tilton, Kay Martinuk, Carol Carr, Susan McNeil, alt.

Dr. Shea-Desmond called the meeting to order at **9:25 am**.

Minutes

MOTION: Ms. Fucarile moved to approve the October 28, 2015 Minutes.
Second by Ms. Magnifico.
All in favor.

Chairperson's Report

Dr. Shea-Desmond and the members discussed the need to put a cap on the amount of people for the upcoming Christmas dinner. Ms. Gannon will report in the Newsletter what the dinner costs, what money they receive and how the COA paid the difference for the 43 meals.

Mr. Leary stated the sound system at Angelica's needs to be adjusted. It wasn't very good for people seated in the back of the room. Ms. Gannon will speak with Angelica's about that.

Dr. Shea-Desmond discussed the gift cards that were given out at the Thanksgiving dinner and how guests were confused as to where they came from. Dr. Shea-Desmond suggested next year they put them in envelopes that say "a gift from the COA" on the front so guests are informed as to where they came from.

Dr. Shea-Desmond would like to thank all the knitters for all of the projects that they had donated for the raffles. The money raised will be used for entertainment and other events. The members also discussed starting the entertainment early next year, perhaps during dessert.

Director's Report

Mr. Leary stated during the Christmas dinner when people bring in and exchange gifts for the Yankee Swap it consumes a lot of time. The members discussed eliminating entertainment from next year's Thanksgiving Dinner which would free up money to help alleviate some of the extra dinners they need to pay for. Angelica's paid for 175 dinners and the COA picked up the cost

for the additional 43 dinners, the entertainment and the gift baskets. The Board of Trade will not let the COA charge a fee for the Christmas party. Angelica's has capped the dinners at 150. Right now they have 70+ on a waiting list. Ms. Gannon stated she has enough to cover those 70 dinners this year so she will let it go because they set the precedence with the Thanksgiving dinner. Only Middleton residents are allowed at this event. Next year there will be a firmer deadline and cap. They should look into companies that may help underwrite the cost. Ms. Gannon is hoping the Mansfield Fund will go with a 175 cap for next year. There may be four more years from the Mansfield Fund that they can draw down on. The members decided it would be best to cap it at 175 and keep a waiting list should they have cancellations or extra funds. Ms. Gannon and Nicole need to put together a report to show the Selectmen and the new Town Administrator Andrew Sheehan.

This year the Rotary is providing the entertainment at the Christmas dinner. The Friends are donating a couple of gift baskets and Mary Landry is going to give them some baskets too. Ms. Gannon will go to the 1728 Club and the Board of Trade with the financials for these two events for next year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Trips:** Ms. Fucarile stated they visited the Peabody Essex Museum on the 6th and the Veterans event at the American Legion on the 9th. The Thanksgiving dinner at Angelicas was wonderful.
- **Newsletter:** Ms. Gannon stated the November/December Newsletter went out and several people came up to her at the Ira's retirement party complimenting them how wonderful it is that they do so much.
- **Friends:** Ms. Gannon stated that Alice is still attending the meetings. They didn't meet in September but they met in October. They provided the lottery baskets for the Thanksgiving raffles and they are going to be given them gift certificates for outreach to pay for someone for gas to get to their job or money for prescriptions, etc.
- **NSES:** Dr. Shea-Desmond stated they haven't had any recent meetings. She will see Paul next week at the Merrimack Elder Services conference. Financially they are still doing well and the annual public meeting is coming up. Tom Linnett is in rehab at Masconomet on Route 97.
- **Food Pantry:** Mr. Leary stated in the last few weeks they brought in over \$8,000. A bunch of items arrived from Masco today.

New Business

Ms. Gannon stated she is on a steering committee for a statewide standard of behavior policy. They have the support of the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. There have been isolated

incidents where they have had to turn people away because they cannot accommodate their needs. PACE has cut five days a week to three days a week. New people can only come two days a week due to finances. PACE suggested people go to the Beverly Senior Center but they are not equipped to deal with advanced illnesses and so there have been several incidents there. The steering committee will be having a third meeting soon and they are taking the best pieces of each of the 22 policies from surrounding towns to come up with their own. Ms. Gannon will provide the members with a draft of the policy when it's ready.

Dr. Shea-Desmond went to the Newburyport Community Center last week and she was approached by the social worker there who handles behavioral issues. There are so many programs available. Ms. Gannon is going to ask the mental health counselor who comes to the Senior Center to sit in on lunch to observe and conduct some assessments.

The Veterans event was so successful. Mr. Butler is booking the hall for next year and they are trying to secure the same entertainment.

In Middleton there are 22-26% residents (mostly women) who are over 60 that are the primary caregivers for children and/or grandchildren. Ms. Gannon has been speaking with Melissa at the Library and they are going to work out a way to create a program where people can bring younger grandchildren to the Senior Center for designated programs at specific time, limited to 6-8 children. Children are permitted at the Center as long as a parent or grandparent is present. Ms. Magnifico stated she has concerns about this idea. Ms. Gannon will put this in the Jan/Feb Newsletter to see what kind of feedback she gets. Ms. Gannon stated there are respite services for caregivers who need a break but the Center is not equipped to do that and refer people to NSES.

Ms. Gannon stated they are looking for a location to hold the appreciation lunch. She is considering the American Legion Hall and bringing in a caterer. The Essex Tech at the Maple St. Bistro is also being considered. Mr. Leary suggested New Brother's Deli in Danvers.

The Maple St. Bistro has given them an invitation for January. In November and December they will make reservations for 10 people and send the van.

Ms. Gannon stated they want to have another dinner dance in February or March at the Legion again and have it catered. Dr. Shea-Desmond stated other communities are having ballroom dances and people are flocking to them.

The meeting adjourned at **10:20am**. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanna Harris, Recording Secretary