

**COUNCIL ON AGING**  
**April 27, 2016 at 9:15 am**  
**Middleton Senior Center**

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

**Others Present:** Susan Gannon, Executive Director  
Leanna Harris, Recording Secretary  
Alice Tierney, Friends

**Absent:** William Walczak, Kay Martinuk, Susan McNeil, alt.

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

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**Minutes**

Dr. Shea-Desmond stated funding was approved for partial funding for the tickets to the NSES gala. It was then decided by Joan and Frank that it was not an appropriate use of funds and they would purchase their own tickets.

Ms. Tilton requested a change to the March Minutes to clarify that a letter to the Board of Selectmen would be sent regarding Alice Tierney joining the Council on Aging.

**MOTION:** Mr. Leary moved to approve the Minutes from the March 30, 2016 meeting. Second by Ms. Magnifico.  
All in favor.  
Motion carried.

**Chairperson's Report**

Dr. Shea-Desmond stated NSES is feeling very favorable towards several Councils including Middleton.

Dr. Shea-Desmond stated that at the last COA meeting, they had discussed areas of concern and so she is wondering if they ever considered creating a task force to look into those concerns and Ms. Gannon stated she didn't think a committee was needed for the Thanksgiving dinner because it's been decided that they are going to charge \$12 per person, \$10 of which will go towards food and \$2 towards door prizes. Ms. Gannon stated at the November meeting they can discuss if they need a committee for the holiday dinner, based on how the Thanksgiving dinner goes.

**Committee Reports:**

- **Trips:** Ms. Fucarile stated they attended the Sound of Music and it was awesome, they did a wonderful job. May 1<sup>st</sup> there is a jazz concert scheduled. Two weeks ago, the lunch

bunch went to Hailey's and then yesterday they went to Bertucci's. Both places served them very well and were very polite. Ms. Tilton stated that this year they are having one trip each month. Ms. Tierney reminded the members to pull two names for the Friends to pay for. Ms. Gannon stated there have been difficult people attending the lunch bunch who try and change people's minds on the bus. Ms. Gannon stated in the Newsletter it will be stated that the Lunch Bunch locations have been pre determined. Next year they may have to go back to \$2 for transportation to the lunch bunch and \$1 for shopping around town. Ms. Gannon doesn't want to cancel programs, she just wants to work around budget issues. Ms. Carr suggested that in light of the Town's budget concerns that the charge be implemented regardless. The members and Ms. Gannon agreed and will start the beginning of the fiscal year in July charging \$5 for the regular monthly trips.

- **Activities:** Ms. Fucarile stated they still have knitting. She would like more people. They are still sewing with Susan and BINGO is very popular with around 15-18 people coming now.
- **Newsletter:** Ms. Gannon stated the Newsletter is in process and it should be ready by the end of this week or Monday.
- **Friends:** Ms. Tierney stated they are meeting next week and asked if there was anything anyone wanted her to bring up to them. Ms. Gannon asked her to ask the Friends about Thanksgiving whether they wanted to do a person cap or a monetary cap.
- **NSES:** Dr. Shea-Desmond stated there was a community relations and development committee meeting last week and they discussed upcoming events. This Friday is the gala and it should be a nice evening. Mr. Leary is attending. As of last Wednesday, there were 130 people signed up. They are looking to do a Beer and Cheer Fest at the Topsfield Fairgrounds and they are making preliminary plans for November 3<sup>rd</sup> for a banquet at Angelicas. They also discussed a blog and a Mother's Day raffle. There is a new person in charge of Public Relations and he is doing a good job. The Shoreline is their monthly online only newsletter and it provides a bunch of information.
- **Food Pantry:** Mr. Leary stated the food pantry continues to do well.

### **Director's Report**

Ms. Gannon stated the first 175 meals are covered but there will not be enough funds to cover both the Thanksgiving and the holiday party. Mr. Leary suggested limiting to only Middleton residents and have it be first come first serve. The members are in agreement that with the cost being charged for the Thanksgiving dinner that it may help to limit the number of people who attend. Ms. Tilton asked if they will be requesting the money well in advance and Ms. Gannon confirmed. Reservations will not be made until the money is received. Ms. Tierney suggested making it non refundable, members agreed. Ms. Tilton stated she thinks they are better off if they are not full to the rafters and that 175 people is a good number versus the 225 that attended last year. It was just too crowded.

### **Old Business**

At the March meeting a motion was made to appropriate funds to the NSES gala to help to pay for Dr. Shea-Desmond, Mr. Leary and Ms. Martinuk's ticket to the gala. Dr. Shea-Desmond and Mr. Leary decided it wasn't a good use of the money and so they would like to take that money and use it to put towards the harpest for Thanksgiving dinner. Ms. Gannon stated the new accountant won't let her pay something that far in to a different fiscal year. The furthest she could go would be August. They suggested using the money towards things for a patio party. Ms. Gannon suggested the breakfasts on the third Tuesdays of the month. Ms. Tierney stated she will ask the Friends if they can put money towards the harpest.

**MOTION:** Ms. Tilton moved to put the \$200 towards the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month.  
Second by Ms. Carr. All in favor.  
Motion carries.

### **New Business:**

Ms. Gannon stated there was a Department Head budget meeting yesterday and distributed a handout outline to the members. Ms. Gannon stated it's like Middleton is like a victim of their own success. The high taxes are forcing a lot of older people out of their homes and then their house sells to a new family with children. There are several 55+ developments and the Council on Aging doesn't receive additional money to aid these people. Their annual budget includes less than \$100 per senior. 24% of the COA budget was non municipal funding that Ms. Gannon hustled for grants and donations. This fiscal year that ends in July is 27% non municipal funding and this upcoming budget is projected to have 30% non municipal funding. Ms. Gannon stated when these grants get cut back, they are going to be in trouble. Their budget has not been reduced as it is seen as a reasonable budget. Ms. Gannon stated she has never requested more money and that she controls the budget very tightly and so they know she is not trying to build a nest egg of municipal funding. The budget is going through as she submitted it.

The budget is \$32 million for this small Town and a lot of the increase is for the schools. Health insurance and retirement funds makes up another large percentage. The Town does not have the funds to fill their budget if every Department gets what they say they need. There is discussion of a Special Town meeting in October. The Town meeting is Tuesday, May 10<sup>th</sup> and then voting is May 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Gannon encouraged everyone to go to the meeting and stated that transportation will be provided.

The Board of Selectmen did vote to approve Ms. Tierney as an alternate for the COA and so she will need to be sworn in. Ms. McNeil will not be moving out of State the end of June. The positions run until June 30<sup>th</sup>. After June 30<sup>th</sup> Ms. Tierney will take Ms. McNeil's position as 1<sup>st</sup> alternate. Ms. Gannon has been talking to Mr. Walzack and he hasn't been able to attend due to health issues. Ms. Gannon is going to ask Mr. Walzack to vacate his position so there will be a spot open for Ms. Tierney to become a full member and then they will have alternate openings.

Ms. Gannon stated members whose terms are up will be receiving letters for Reappointment.

Ms. Gannon stated, as a reminder, because they changed it in the bylaws, nominations are in May. The Town has requested that the nominations and the voting be done by the end of May at their May meeting so that they have all of the information when they put the lists together in June so they have everything ready for July 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Adjournment**

**MOTION:** Mr. Leary moved to adjourn the meeting at **10:11 am.**  
Second by Ms. Carr.  
All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

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Leanna Harris, Recording Secretary