

COUNCIL ON AGING
September 30, 2015 at 9:15 am
Middleton Senior Center

Members Present: Joan Shea-Desmond, Chair, Barbara Tilton, Martha Fucarile, Barbara Sanborn, Leah Magnifico, Carol Carr, Susan McNeil, alt.

Absent: Frank Leary, Kay Martinuk

Others Present: Susan Gannon, Executive Director

Dr. Shea-Desmond called the meeting to order at **9:20 am**.

Minutes:

MOTION: Ms. Carr moved to approve the July 29, 2015 minutes.
Second by Ms. Tilton. All in favor. Motion carries.

Director's Report:

Ms. Gannon reported that they did receive the \$15,000 grant from NSES and it will be used to expand transportation services for medical appointments and other transportation services. They would like to expand the area they cover. As of now they don't travel into Boston but they are going to include Lahey in Burlington. In the past they have had people receiving cancer treatments in Peabody and they never could afford to offer transportation to that facility on a daily basis and so now with the grant they will be able to help people more and expand services. Dr. Shea-Desmond asked if there will be a charge for someone using the van and Ms. Gannon responded that because it is a grant the \$6 fee can't be required but a donation can be accepted. The van used for shopping trips will also drop people off having lab work done.

Ms. Sanborn asked about the ID people not showing up at the annual picnic and Ms. Gannon stated Ms. Martinuk is the coordinator for the TRIAD and she hasn't had the opportunity to discuss their absence with her.

It was decided that a \$10 fee would be required to reserve a spot at the Thanksgiving dinner at Angelicas. The \$10 would be reimbursement by gift card (ex. Market Basket) to those who attend. Ms. Gannon is hoping this will cut down on the no shows that they still end up having to pay for. The dinner is worth about \$40 per person. Ms. Gannon will put this information in the next Newsletter with a final deadline to pay the \$10.

Ms. Gannon stated that, per Executive Office of Elder Affairs, anyone can go to any Senior Center and so Middleton has people from other Towns that regularly attend their events. People will ask to bring their spouse or a daughter to the dinner and so she is thinking that out of Town residents will have to pay \$20 to attend but those people who regularly attend events will pay the \$10. No one under age 55 is allowed to attend the dinner. Anyone who is not a Middleton resident will be put on a waiting list. We are waiting to hear what the guest cap is from the

Town regarding the Mansfield Fund, which funds the event for food. Any extras, such as professional entertainment is paid for out of the COA budget or from grants/donations.

Chairperson's Report:

Dr. Shea-Desmond stated she is happy to see that everyone attended the Elder Affairs workshop and Middleton's Council on Aging was well represented.

Dr. Shea-Desmond stated she keeps hearing about how people are aware of their upcoming events and activities where they never used to be.

Committee Reports:

- **Trips** – Ms. Tilton stated they went to the Abbey out in Spencer, MA. The Brother that took them around was very nice and knowledgeable. They began their tour with a DVD. The organist was playing at the Chapel. There's a lovely shop on campus that had a large selection of different marmalades and a large selection of books. There are about 50 brothers and fathers living there. They have special meditation rooms for the weekends where each room has a private bathroom. After the tour they went to a nearby diner which turned out to be a great big restaurant. The food was great and very reasonable. Overall it was a very interesting time and it was a beautiful day.

Ms. Tilton stated they went to Newburyport and went on a harbor run but that morning was very cold and windy so the boat ride was shortened. There was a big crowd so they separated to go shopping and to lunch. Ms. Fucarile stated the weather warmed up in the afternoon.

Ms. Fucarile stated the breakfast trolley in Salem was really fun. The Blue Door had a beautiful party with entertainment. This is the home of Ethel Marino, who for many years ran a lovely B & B, named the Blue Door, from her home on East Street. The event was the very popular and well-attended Garden Party with professional entertainment.

Ms. Fucarile stated the Boxford Apple Festival was very nice too.

- **Newsletter** – Ms. Gannon stated she had a number of compliments on the Newsletter and someone who read about the Friends sponsoring the lockboxes has made those arrangements. The cost is between \$50-60 and Friends will cover the cost. The applications are available at the Fire Dept. The lockbox holds a master key that both the fire and police departments have which helps to get medical attention much more quickly. Ms. Gannon will include this information in the next few Newsletters. The next Newsletter will be sent out early because there is so much coming up over the holidays. Ms. Gannon is hoping to have it back from the publisher by the third week in the October. Ms. Carr stated she will mention the lockboxes at Ironwood since there are so many seniors who live there.

- **MCOA** – The Pirates of Penzance show in Salem is on November 15th. The van will be available to take people over. The cost, including transportation is \$15. The Friends have committed to sponsoring this event and there is no limit to the number tickets. It is reserved seating. Ms. Gannon stated that next year Andy is submitting a grant to Middleton Cultural Council to see if he can get funds for performance again that would pay for Middleton residents.
- **NSES** – Dr. Shea-Desmond stated NSES is doing very well and is benefitting from a lot of programs. They are receiving pay for services rendered where in the past it was problematic. As of right now, there is a surplus of \$247,000 for 2015. They are still awaiting audit. They just had a meeting on September 24th. The annual business meeting is in October and the annual banquet will be November 18th. They also have a new updated website.

New Business:

Ms. Gannon stated there is an upcoming October event for Ira at Teresa’s Restaurant. Ms. Gannon would like to contact Ryan Ferrera to arrange for the COA to have a few minutes where they can say a few words and present Ira with a gift. State ethics do not allow the gift to be over \$50. The COA and the Friends can each get him something and combine it. Ms. Gannon would like ideas by Friday. Ms. Gannon will get the date to the COA and she is hoping they can all attend.

The holiday dinner tends have more no shows than the Thanksgiving dinner and so Ms. Carr is going to speak with the Board of Trade and 728 Club to see how they feel about also charging a fee for the holiday dinner with reimbursement for those that attend.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Ms. Tilton moved to adjourn at **10:10 am**. Second by Ms. Carr
 All in favor.
 Motion carries.