

Council on Aging Minutes Nov. 18, 2016

TOWN OF AVON
2016 DEC 22 AM 11:37

Board members present: Karen Johnson, Jean Kopke, Deb Greene, Linda Chute, Ed Selman. Absent: Jane Lukasiewicz, Jason Miller, Sonny Mercuri. Staff present: Gene Mazzella, Director. Guest: Wilma MacDonald

Meeting was called to order at 1:05 by Chair Karen Johnson. The Oct. 7, 2016 minutes were approved with corrections noted.

Old Business: Will be meeting with the town administrator Frank Crimmons by the end of November to discuss the budget, by laws and capital improvements for the annual meeting.

CDBG – Advisory board and project funds – money that comes back to the town is available to seniors for special projects. Will discuss in detail at the next meeting what these special projects entail.

COA Communications: Some ways of communications available to the COA ; the COA newsletter, local cable, social media, announcements, Everything Avon website, phone, email list and the money saver newspaper. The COA newsletter will be mailed in the money saver on alternating months that do not conflict with the town newsletter. A survey directed to the needs of the seniors in Avon will be inserted in the March delivery.

COA to send out robo calls, emergency information, closings due to weather etc. This phone system will contain email addresses as well.

EOEA - board training review will be acted on at the next meeting.

EOEA state funds are based on \$10/senior in Avon. This is money is for the COA to use. The Volunteer Coord. position is funded by some of this money. Money will be used for newsletter mailings and for the new outreach software to be installed for 2017.

The COA Bylaws Review will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Alzheimer's Walk held in October raised \$1,300.

New Business: Kitchen/Dining staff & volunteer roles and responsibilities. There was discussion about setting up a job list with duties assigned to individuals who like to volunteer to help out on lunch days. Jane, the Volunteer Coordinator will supervise the list.

A part time van driver position will be advertised. This will be an on-call, as needed position which requires flexible availability.

Other Business: Wilma MacDonald had questions about scheduling doctor appointments. Gene explained the van is not a transportation service for Avon. The van is available to the disabled and for people 60 years of age and older. Medical appointments, shopping trips, and rides to lunch are scheduled according to the open time slots that are available. The BAT bus and taxi's are available if on occasion they need to be used. The COA does the best it can with what is available. The new van position should alleviate any overflow of passengers needs. Van schedules are available at the COA and on cable.

Ed Selman suggested putting flyers and schedules at the VFW. There are a number of people that are not aware of all the services and programs that the COA provides.

Karen brought up the subject of being asked to transport seniors in personal cars. This would be a liability and it was felt it was not a good idea. If seniors want to call a friend for a ride, that would be a different situation.

Deb Greene asked about new appliances for the kitchen. The first appliance that needs replacing is the dishwasher. It should be a commercial dishwasher capable of handling the lunch day dishes. A business in Brockton will be contacted for information regarding the electrical and plumbing needs.

The Thanksgiving Day lunch was held this week and was a great success. The seniors enjoyed a traditional Thanksgiving dinner sponsored in part by the call Fire Dept. They enjoyed raffles and small gifts provided by the Board of Directors.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Friday, Dec. 16, 2016 at 1:00.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Chute*