

Town of Avon Massachusetts

COUNCIL ON AGING

Director

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COUNCIL ON AGING

Board Members

Karen Johnson, Chair
Deborah Greene, Vice Chair
Linda Chute, Secretary
Jean Kopke, Treasurer
Sonny Mercuri, Member
Ed Selman, Member
Joanne Grenham, Member

Council on Aging Minutes March 9, 2018 10:00 am

TOWN OF AVON
2018 MAY -9 A 10:49
TOWN CLERK

Meeting held at Civic Center – 65 East Main Street, Avon, MA 02322

Present: Karen Johnson, Deb Greene, Jean Kopke, Linda Chute, Joanne Grenham, and Gene Mazzella COA Director Absent: Ed Selman and Sonny Mercuri

Minutes:

Motion was made and carried to table review and approval of December 27, 2017 and February 15, 2018 minutes.

Old Business:

FY 19 Budget Update

Gene presented budget and supporting documents used in budget meeting with Finance Committee.

Meeting went very well and Finance Committee seemed supportive of Selectmen's recommendation to strengthen kitchen and van wages after Gene presented documentation and made the case that COA Board and Director have been working on over the past year.

Meeting was based on draft budget from Board of Selectmen and if COA gets cut in the final Selectmen budget Gene may need to meet with Finance Committee again.

New Business:

Senior Suggestions

Homemade Soup: There was a request for homemade soup. Gene will check with Cindy on how soups are made now and ensure we have homemade unless serving tomato.

Brockton Enterprise: There was a request to purchase a subscription to The Brockton Enterprise newspaper. The board suggested trying the newspaper for a 6 month period. Gene will check into it.

Memory Café Sponsorship

This is a program designed to provide a dementia friendly community. A caregiver goes with their family member to a site where there are planned activities provided for dementia individuals. There is a need to develop more statewide sites. Currently there is one nearby in Pembroke and E. Bridgewater. Harbor Health has a location coming in Brockton. They are looking for local support.

It was suggested to start out slow with our support. Perhaps we could provide a few volunteers to help with an activity and inform our seniors about services that are offered. At this point the COA is not in a position to offer monetary support.

Harbor Health has an information session scheduled for April. They have invited the COA to come and observe how the program works. Some of the Board members could go and Louise could suggest the program to her group, see if they are interested.

Old Colony Elder Services Meals on Wheels

This is a federally funded program to provide meals, congregate meals and home delivered meals. They can provide diet specific meals that our kitchen cannot. They now have the budget to provide home delivered meals to Avon residents. The COA would choose Monday & Friday for Meals on Wheels. This would cover the days not currently serving lunch, doing so would provide lunch 5 days a week. It is a suggested donation of \$2.50/lunch. The Board recommended using OCES for Monday & Fridays. Gene suggested advertising in the Money Saver news flyer.

COA Emergency Response

The My Senior Center software sent out emergency calls twice in the last two weeks informing people about the Butler School warming site and when the COA, Town Hall and Library would be closed because of the winter storms. Gene said they reached over 300 seniors using this new system. He will see about using a phone number that is recognized as the COA.

Gene and Louise were at the Butler School to welcome any seniors that came to warm up. They met a number of seniors and talked with them. Gene said they could use more help in the future and the board members were happy to agree to help out in the future. Gene & Louise called about 100 seniors to check on their welfare and make sure they had everything they needed.

New Town Administrator

James Purcell from Norwood has been hired as the interim town Administrator and will start this Monday. Shanna will bring him to the St. Patrick's Day lunch to introduce him to the seniors.

Director's Report

Renovations: The back office and back exit doors may require an article at the town meeting. The Selectmen are putting in money for the doors for the Annual Town Meeting. Gene will work up figures for renovations for a Special Town Meeting.

Vans: The new van driver has completed class training and will soon finish with the driver training. Reinstating van trips that we used to provide was discussed. Seniors have asked about the Church ride, ham & bean supper, candidate's nights and rides outside of the normal work day. The Board made a motion to support the COA director request and Gene will let the Board of Selectmen know about bringing back former van runs.

Book Club: The new book club had their first meeting with the library director and it went well. The director will conduct one more class and then the book club can take it over. Library books have been dropped off at the COA from the library for patrons requesting them.

Howard Fund: The Howard Fund provided a \$10,000 grant to be used for the seniors. It cannot be used for salaries or capital expenditures.

Computers: There will be 2 desktop computers installed for the seniors to use.

Formula Grant: The EOEA contract has been signed. This is a formula grant used to pay the Volunteer Coordinators hours. The town has approved up to 19 hours for that job.

Bingo: Harbor Health will be running a bingo game with prizes along with a presentation on March 22nd.

Meals on Wheels: OCES yearly fundraiser on April 29th in Kingston for Meals On Wheels.

Elder Abuse Awareness: March Against Elder Abuse on June 21st.

Senior Trips: Plainville Casino on April 18th, cost is under \$10. Fenway Park baseball game on May 30th, cost under \$50. Swan Boat Trip – TBA

St. Patty's Day: Plan for day was laid out and board members added suggestions.

Arts & Crafts: Continue to go very well! Big thanks to Linda and Karen!!

Candidates: Both Selectmen candidates have been to COA once and may come a second time. One Assessor candidate is scheduled the other can't make it due to time issues.

Other Business:

Van Schedule – The Board voted to support a return to extended and weekend hours of the van based on the drivers' availability. Gene will draft a memo to the Selectmen letting them know.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40

The next meeting will be on Friday, April 13th at 10:00.

Documents and Exhibits: Agenda, Senior Suggestions, Finance Committee Budget Meeting Documents, Howard Trust Letter, March Against Elder Abuse Flyer, Meals on Wheels Fundraiser Flyer, List of COA Trips and February 2018 Report to Board of Selectmen

Approved on: 4-13-18

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Chute, Secretary