

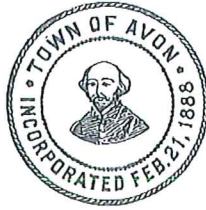
# Town of Avon Massachusetts

## COUNCIL ON AGING

### Director

Gene A. Mazzella  
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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 April 13, 2018 10:00 am

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

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

### **Minutes:**

Motion was made and carried for approval of December 27, 2017  
February 15, 2018 and March 9, 2018 minutes as presented.

### **Old Business:**

#### FY 19 Budget Update

Gene reported the Selectmen's budget for the COA with a 6% increase did not change in the final draft which was discussed at the Fin Com meeting. He will be prepared to answer any questions on Town Meeting floor if it gets a pass.

#### Memory Café Sponsorship / Support

Louise and Jayne attended a workshop presentation. On May 9th there will be a grand opening at the Brockton location. There are four Memory Cafes in our immediate area. The Brockton location has been adopted as our closest regional café. The COA has been asked to run a craft or activity to show support and assist with spreading the word about the new site and partnership opportunities.

#### Old Colony Elder Services Meals on Wheels

OCES has updated Gene that the program would require all seniors to use OCES for home delivered meals up to five days a week. The Avon COA would essentially give up our current program and turn to OCES for all home delivered meals. The OCES Meals on Wheels program can offer diet restriction meals that our kitchen isn't able to. These meals would be offered as the home delivered meals to seniors age 60 and above who cannot prepare a nutritious meal for themselves. The donation for these meals is \$2.50 which is turned over

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TOWN CLERK

to OCES. It was felt that many more people could be served with adopting this program and there would be no cost to the COA. The board voted to support the partnership between OCES and the Avon COA and supports Gene to move forward with the Meals on Wheels program.

#### COA Emergency Response

In emergency weather conditions the seniors will receive a robo call informing them of closings of town offices and the COA. Deb Greene talked about a backup phone battery that Comcast will provide free to seniors. Ed thought since most phone lines are digital the battery wouldn't be of any help. He also knew of a program that seniors can get cell phones for no charge. Ed volunteered to provide power to seniors with a generator. This past winter has been very tough on the seniors when they are without power for days at a time. Gene shared some notes Louise developed from the past winter response and more planning around emergency response will be coming.

#### **New Business:**

##### Enterprise Subscription

Gene checked into having the Brockton Enterprise delivered to the COA for the seniors to read. At this time the delivery schedule is for Monday-Sunday. Since the COA is not open on Sat/Sun it was felt this would not work for us. Some board members offered to bring in their copies and leave them at the COA for seniors to have. Gene will check with the Town Hall to see how their subscription and delivery works.

##### Letters of Interest for COA Appointments

There are three appointments up for renewal. Karen, Ed and Joanne will send letters to Town Hall requesting reappointments.

Gene's appointments for OCES and OCPC are also due for renewal. The board felt Gene does a good job relaying important information to the COA Board from both OCES and OCPC and requested he continue to serve on these boards.

##### Slip & Fall Health Fair

This Public Health Regional Grant Program that surrounding towns can participate in. Avon has picked the Slip & Fall program to be held this summer at a date to be announced. Dov the Public Health Nurse will coordinate this program.

##### Dementia Friends Regional Training

The Avon COA will host a training program on dementia. Information will be sent to surrounding towns for their participation. A professional trainer will conduct the class.



## Director's Report

Van schedule - The van drivers have completed their training. Cost for making the door accessible from outside are being worked on. A request for adding additional routes, such as church on Saturday has been discussed with town hall.

BAT Transportation Hearing - BAT is holding open hearings and has asked for Gene to make open comments on need for New Freedom plan that allows users to get Dial a Bat outside corridor. This takes a heavy load off van schedule

Kitchen Stove - It was brought to the attention of the board that a burner on one of the stoves doesn't work. Ed said he would take a look at it and get it fixed. Karen suggested replacing one of the stoves with a convection oven. Both are very old and in need of upgrading.

Windows - Tinting the windows and replacing slats is being looked into.

State Formula Grant - FY18 State funds arrived in the amount of \$9,726.56. Most is used for Volunteer Coordinator hours. All funds must be spent. An analysis of spend down will determine if we need to request to redirect any funds to other COA allowable expenses.

Podiatrist - there wasn't much interest shown, further outreach via newsletter or MoneySaver will be done

Lunch Budgets - The expenses are exceeding revenue. A voucher or ticket program was discussed. Gene will remind everyone that the suggested donation is needed to meet expenses. Other towns charge more for non-residents and Avon has been getting many non-residents lately. Gene will continue looking into the issue and seek possible solutions.

Upcoming Trips and Events - A list was shared with board members.

OCES Meals on Wheels Fund Raiser - The event will be held on Sunday April 29<sup>th</sup>. Gene is expected to attend and welcomes any board members.

OCES and Brockton Elder Abuse Awareness March - Event to be held on Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Gene to go with some seniors. Louise will do a mini presentation on Elder Abuse for the COA and develop a more detailed training for meals on wheels volunteers on how to identify and report.

Future COA Board Agenda Items - Welcome Packets, Tax Deferral and COA By-Laws make up our current running list of items to tackle.

## **Other Business:**

Restaurant of the Month - This program is going well and proves to be a nice outing.

Arts & Crafts Classes - This program is also going well and enjoyed by the seniors.

Free Cell Phone for Seniors – It was discussed that some seniors can qualify for free cell phones. Gene will have Louise look into it.

Kitchen Protocols – Protocols for Leftovers, Desserts and Special Meals were discussed.

Men's Group Activity – The number of men coming to the COA for lunch is increasing. Gene will work with Louise on assessing interest in starting a men's group.

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The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm

The next meeting will be on Friday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00.

Documents and Exhibits: Agenda, Brockton Enterprise Subscription Sheet, Emergency Planning Notes, List of upcoming Presentations and Events, Director's Report Notes, March 2018 Report to Board of Selectmen

Approved on:

5-11-2018

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Chute*

Linda Chute, Secretary