

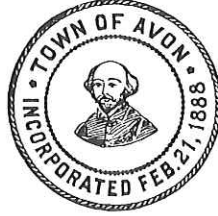
# Town of Avon Massachusetts

## 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 September 22, 2017 10:00 am**

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

Woody Salter attended briefly to be heard on van driver pay concerns.

### **Minutes:**

Voted to approve minutes of August 18, 2017 with corrections.

### **Old Business:**

#### Food Safety Trainings

All COA staff are now Choke Saver trained. Seniors will be invited to let the staff know if they have allergies to certain foods or insects that could interfere with breathing.

COA board members Karen, Joanne & Linda are interested in being trained in the Food Handler course. This is an on-line course that Gene is generating registration for. All kitchen staff and a few of the COA staff will also take it.

#### BAT Contract & Updates

The lease for the replacement van with BAT was not signed at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting. The Selectmen will make a decision after meeting and talking with BAT.

#### Tank Cover – Replaced

A replacement washroom tank cover was located and installed with the help of Deb Greene.

#### Outreach Position – Update

The job description remains under review with the Board of Selectmen and council.

## **New Business:**

### Senior Suggestions

It was suggested to clear the dinner plates before dessert is served.

The strawberries and whip cream need to be sweeter.

Brownies need to be decent size with something on them.

Gene will address all these issues.

### Transportation Analysis

Gene presented a transportation analysis of 13 surrounding communities summarizing their pay rate for drivers and cost to seniors to use the van as part of a report he is preparing for the Board of Selectmen.

- Ride Cost

The ride costs for the Avon van were in line with the majority of surrounding towns. This includes the policy to have fees as voluntary and not to charge for rides to the COA.

Ed inquired if there was a way to check and see if the seniors are paying. Gene will work up an analysis and report back to the Board.

- Driver Rate

Most towns have, or would like, a starting rate of \$15 per/hour. Avon is significantly below this mark starting at \$11.84 and peaking at \$12.98.

Woody Salter attended the meeting briefly and asked the Board and the Director for some direction regarding a new pay rate scale for the part-time van drivers. He reported frustration with the lack of representation for part-time personnel in the town with no appointed Personnel Board members. He stated, and all agreed, that pay scales should be reviewed yearly. Currently there is no appointed Personnel Board. All issues go thru the Board of Selectmen who don't seem to have the ability to take this up on a regular basis.

Gene reported that the transportation analysis is meant to help the Board of Selectmen review this issue and to review what other towns are charging for van rides.

A vote was taken to write a letter to the Board of Selectmen expressing Board and staff concern over current van driver rates and to support keeping ride fees the same.

A second vote was taken to ask Gene to identify and work with other Town Departments who employ part-time employees and coordinate with them to have the Selectmen review all part-time rates since it has not been done in a long while.

## Directors Report

**Avon Library:** A COA volunteer and device have been identified to help seniors put books on hold. A natural disaster preparedness discussion will be held at the library on October 10, 2017 from 6 – 7:00 pm. Fire and Police Chiefs, Board of Health Agent and COA Director will be present as part of the library speakers series. The goal is to advise people how to prepare for a natural disaster. The presentation will be recapped at the COA the following week and some version of it taped for Avon cable.

**Alzheimer's Walk:** The walk was a success with Tufts Health Plan doubling the money raised through a member of the COA Caregiver Support program.

**Hurricane Relief:** The 50/50 for Hurricane Relief will be sent to the appropriate agency.

**Newsletter:** Due to time constraints the newsletter could not be printed in time for the Money Saver. In the meantime a one page/front & back flyer is available to send out.

**Trunk or Treat:** Tricia Pepe and Meghan Mallett volunteered to help and participate at the Butler School in October. The COA will donate a couple of bags of candy for the event. Any senior who wishes may also donate candy and participate in the fun of giving it out.

**Pending Board of Selectmen Issues:** Gene expects to meet with Frank Crimmins this week to discuss pending issues and repairs for the COA. It was suggested to put in an article for the repairs needed as capital improvement projects. Articles are submitted to the Board of Selectmen, they decide if it goes to town meeting for approval.

**Goals and possible articles for annual town meeting**

1. Update the COA facilities for privacy and safety.
2. Compensate part time van drivers by upgrading the pay scale.
3. Better access to the building – replacing EXIT doors, currently some cannot be opened easily.
4. Parking lot project – place a cut in the walk way for a hand rail.
5. Create a sitting area in back of the building for the seniors to sit out in nice weather.

## **Other Business:**

**Lunch at Fellowship Circle:** This issue was discussed previously and Gene was asked for an update. Gene feels that a strong connection with outreach is good to get in place and had expected this by now with the new position. He and Louise will work up a survey see if the residents are interested in having a lunch with other town seniors once a month.

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The next meeting is scheduled for October 13, 2017 at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40.

Approved on: 10-13-17

Respectfully submitted,

*Linda Chute*

Linda Chute, Secretary