

North Reading Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 20, 2017
Third Meeting House, Building on the Common

Meeting called to order by Joe Veno at 6:30 P.M. at the Third Meeting House, O'Leary Senior Center.

Present:

Mary Prenney-Director, Joe Veno, Maureen Donato and Jennifer Collins.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2017 Meeting

Motion to approve made by Maureen Donato and Seconded by Jennifer Collins,----unanimous

Director's Report

See attached copy of Directors Report for complete information

Newsletters

Fall Newsletter is in process and being edited by Sue Tilton.

Friends of the COA

Friends are planning to provide money to refurbish COA bathrooms with paint and decorations.

Community Impact Team.

National Night Out in August 2017 was very successful. The Table sponsored by MVES was very successful. The gift bags that were left over from NNO contained community resources info and were given out at a program sponsored by Winchester Hospital/MVES/COA at Kitty's on September 13th. The name of the program was *Benefits of Staying Social* and 125 Seniors attended. The gift packet contained *A Drug Deactivation Bag* and a *Drug Safety Holder with a Timer Activator for Drugs*.

CIT to hold Screening regarding Social Media named *Screenages* at NRHS on Oct 5th at 6:30.

FY18 Budget

No article at Town Meeting in the FY-19-21 Capital Improvement Plan

NRACT—Rich Wallner

Rich remains very committed and involved in NRACT and continues to promote ideas to keep NR Seniors in town and engaged socially.. He recently presented "*Big Ideas for North Reading Seniors, 2018*" at CPC meeting.

MVES

There is a new MOW,s driver, Bob Grady, as of September, 2017.

Merrimack Valley Regional Transit Authority (MVRTA)

The Town of North Reading has contracted with MVRTA to provide medical ride services to North Reading residents 60 and older and younger disabled veterans. Clients will call the MVRTA directly for services. *See Directors Report for these great and new details.*

The COA will still have rides provided through Volunteers from Christian Community Services and the COA Van provides shopping trips 25 hours/week in town and to CVS.

Personnel Notes

See Directors Report for details/updates on new and changes to COA personnel.

Al Heard and Cindy Elmore share 25 hours total of driving COA van. Sherri Greer/was hired as "new Administrative Assistant." Sue Tildon remains 15 hours/week as an outreach worker at COA. Her work is *invaluable* to the COA and the Senior Community and their families. Geoff Bemis remains the SHINE counselor at the COA.

Update/Review of Mystic Valley Elder Services Report

Mary Prenney, Director of COA, is President of MVES Board and attends meetings at MVES 2-3 times/week.

Mary Prenney and Joe Veno are on the North Reading Housing Board; their focus is on improvement/restoration of Elder Housing at Peabody Court as well as exploring options for new very much needed Elder Housing in North Reading. Securing new housing will require combined resources from State, Town of North Reading, various community and private pay sources and MVES.

Comedy Night is planned to be held at Anthony's in Malden sometime in January 2018 to raise funds for the Home Delivered Meals Program (formerly MOWs Program.)

Promote the COA

Richard Wallner continues to promote the COA several times a week at seminars/updates given to various Boards and Town Meetings in North Reading regarding ways and resources that focus on promote North Reading elders "to age in place in their community while remaining socially engaged and physically active."

Friends of the COA Update

No member present. COA Board is very appreciative for the Friend's appropriation to provide paint and decorations to update bathrooms at COA

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Promote/solicit new COA Board Members to members/groups/interested persons. Post requests for new COA Board Members in quarterly issues of Elder Affairs Newsletter, "Meeting House Echoes." Discuss proposal to change start time of COA Board Meeting from 6:30 to 6:00PM.

Adjourn: 7:10:M

Motion to adjourn made by Maureen Donato and seconded by Joe Veno----Unanimous

Next COA Meeting scheduled for October 25, 2017 at 6:30PM

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen Donato, COA Acting Secretary for Frances Cheney, Secretary,

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