

North Reading Council on Aging Meeting

Minutes

Wednesday, May 15, 2013 - Meeting

Meeting called to order 7:15pm at the O'Leary Senior Center. Present were Mary Prenney, Brian Snell, Ed Broughton, Joe Veno, Rich Wallner and Maureen Donato.

Absent: Eleanor Fritsch.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from February 20, 2013

Motion made by Ed Broughton and Seconded by Rich Wallner. Approve 5-0 unanimous.

Director's Report

- May is designated Older American's Month. The Board of Selectman plan to read a proclamation at their meeting scheduled for May 20, 2013 at 7:00pm in honor of Senior Citizens. COA Board Members are invited to attend; Ed Broughton volunteered to represent the COA Board.
- Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast is scheduled for Friday, June 14, 2013 at the Hillview Country Club. Invitations are scheduled to be mailed soon.
- Deadline for the newsletter, "Meeting House Echoes," is Friday, May 17th.
- Katherine Barr, Editor, is planning to have articles submitted and completed by High School students before the summer break.
- COA, van driver, Marty Dickman, has retired as of May 2nd. His job will be posted at Human Resources for 22.5 hours week with benefits. An ice cream social has been planned in his honor at the COA on May 20th.
- FY 14 Budget is the same and will be voted on at June 3rd Town Meeting.
- FY Capital Request – No money is available for a new van for the COA. The request for carpeting from the DPW is also in jeopardy due to the budget crunch.

- The van is being utilized for scheduled trips to medical appointments both in and out-of town. Van is also used for Social Trips scheduled for one time per month.
- The installation of stairs to the West Side Parking Project is on hold due to over budget costs. Completion of the project is on hold; the Historical Commission is scheduled to review proposed project again before any changes are made and the work is completed. The Friends of the NRCOA have provided the funds for the plantings on the West Side,
- Social Service Action Team and Community Impact Team booklet is completed. The Resource Guide is available on both the CIT website and the NR Town website. Posters are scheduled to be displayed in various NR stores and local places to publicize awareness of how/where to get help when a crisis occurs.
- The North Reading Public School Transition North Reading Academy and North Reading Department of Elder Affairs have been nominated for MCOA Innovator of the Year Award.
- (See Directors Report for completed and additional details.)
- Mrs. Prenney reported that there was a good turnout at the Mother's Day Luncheon celebration. Tom Yuil provided the entertainment and a Hearing Aid Specialist gave a talk and provided a consult for Elders if requested.

Promote the COA

Ed Broughton attended the FONRCOA meeting where the differences/missions between the COA and FONRCOA were discussed. The COA much appreciates their support and presentation and gift of the Tomato Plants as well as the effort and money that the FONRCOA raised for the COA by arranging/sponsoring the Town Wide Yard Sale and Raffle. The COA greatly appreciates the new 60inch TV anonymously donated by two local families. It is Wii compatible and can be utilized for calling Bingo games.

Friends of the COA Update

No representative from "Friends" was present at meeting.

Old Business

Mr. Snell presented to the Board his ideas and follow-up regarding "How the Board can promote/improve social schedule/interactions of North Reading Seniors."

He made contacts with Salter Health Care, Wingate Nursing Home, Sanborne

Place Day Center and Windsor Place. These facilities shared their ideas of what they could offer/open to the Seniors of North Reading from their scheduled activities, programs, presentations, monthly breakfast gatherings. Some even offered their transportation services to/from their activities throughout the year to the Seniors of North Reading.

Also noted was that the Congregational Church opens its hall for Senior Activities.

New Business

The Board agreed to focus and brainstorm before next Fall ways to strategize how to pull in other partners, sponsors, and groups in order to share resources, social activities, speaking events, improve communications, and raise funds for the COA.

Adjourn – 8:25PM

Motion made to adjourn made by Maureen Donato and seconded by Ed Broughton

Next Meeting scheduled for June 19, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Donato, COA Secretary
