

**North Reading Council on Aging**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, October 16, 2013**

Meeting called to order at 7:08 PM at the O'Leary Senior Center. A quorum was reached after the arrival of Chairman, Brian Snell. Present were Mary Prenney, Eleanor Fritsch, Joe Veno and Maureen Donato. Rich Wallner arrived later due to traffic delays.

Absent: Ed Broughton.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from September 18, 2013

Motion made by Joe Veno and seconded by Eleanor Fritsch. Unanimous

Director's Report

The continuous, emitting, whirring sound from Mrs. Prenney's new computer has been alleviated due to corrections made to the router.

The former HDM's driver is ill.

Volunteers at Senior Center met with EAP (Employees Assistance Program) Social Worker to ventilate and express their distress over many recent losses they experienced this past winter through their associations at the O'Leary Senior Center.

The Social Service Action Team (SSAT) has completed/published their booklet "Crisis and Resource Guide," for North Reading. They plan to offer a 12 hour First Aid Course on Mental Health issues. The time and date is to be announced. The SSAT and Community Impact Team have expressed an interest in starting an Action Team Program to do more for the elders such as Programs in Safety and First Aid, Mental Health, and Intergenerational Issues. \$9400 has been approved at Town Meeting for the new flooring needed at the O'Leary Senior Center. John Walsh, Building Superintendent, will be meeting with COA Director, Mary Prenney before start of new flooring project.

West Side Parking project will be getting new plants soon.

A Speaker from the Shine Program from Mystic Valley Elder Services made much needed presentation about the changes in/and on "What's New in Medicare for 2014" on October 15, at the O'Leary Senior Center.

Plans are being made to start a Safety Program for elders with input from the COA Director and the Fire Safety Program in order to provide Fire/Smoke Detectors in homes of needy elders who are unable to afford them. Some of the recommendations will come from the HDM's program driver who has access and insight into those homes in need when delivering the elders daily HDM,

Promote the COA

Joe Veno plans to attend the Seminar on "Reporting Elder Abuse and Mandated Reporters" sponsored by Elder Services of Merrimack Valley at Andover Police Station on November 4,

2013, 10am to 12am. Seminar is open to all via reservations at ESMV. NR Safety Office, Scott Tilton will be representing NR.

COA Board Members are invited to attend the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Hillview on November 24, 2013. The COA Board will be seated at their own table.

#### Friends of the C.O.A. Update

No representative from "Friends" was present this meeting.

#### Old Business

The discussion on plans for the COA to "brain storm" and put together plans on how the COA can advocate/improve activities/socialization/welfare of our elders was discussed; the Director felt that this should include programs to meet the needs for all Seniors, i.e. aged 60 to 90+. The Board acknowledges that several new programs in transportation, social events and additional resources and information have been added during the past year.

However, it is indicated by the recent census of North Reading that the senior population is rapidly growing and includes issues for seniors over a broad range of ages. All agree that plans for new senior housing needs to be pursued. An example of meeting the needs of all Seniors might be to promote/establish a program/meeting area at the senior center to meet the needs for those over 60 who by their nature of being Gay/Bisexual/Lesbian/Trangender (GBLT) need socialization with other GBLT seniors.

Another example might be to promote some interaction between seniors and schoolage children for intergenerational conversations/communication/support at the Senior center.

#### New Business

Ideas for "The Ideal Senior Center of North Reading" will be discussed in detail and projects/programs proposed will be prioritized according to their feasibility/need in the coming year.

#### Adjourn --- 8:25PM

Motion to adjourn made by Joe Veno and seconded by Rich Wallner. Unanimous

Next Meeting scheduled for November 20, 2013.

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen L. Donato, Secretary \_\_\_\_\_