

North Reading Council on Aging Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2014

Meeting called to order at 7:08PM at the O'Leary Senior Center. A quorum was reached after the arrival of Chairman, Brian Snell. Present were Mary Prenney, Director, Eleanor Fritsch, Joe Veno, and Maureen Donato. Rich Wallner arrived later at 7:25PM.

Absent: Ed Broughton

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from October 16, 2013

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

Director's Report

See attached copy Director's Report for complete information.

Winter 2014 Newsletter was mailed last week.

No decisions were made regarding the type of flooring for the Senior Center.

\$9000 has been approved for the flooring replacement.

FY 15 Capital Request for a new van has been taken under advisement. The present van is 6 years old and has a major problem with leaking in wet weather.

FY 15 Operations Budget has been increased by \$500 per COA request.

The Community Impact Team (Social Service Action Team) has been awarded a grant to host an 8 hour course for 30 people titled "Mental Health First Aid" that will be held on January 22, 2014. Additional courses for both adults and youths will be offered at other dates.

The successful Fire Safety Program where Fire Detector alarms have been placed/ replaced in elders homes is in jeopardy due to lack of funds. A request has been made to the Friends of NR COA and the Arsenault Family for a donation from the proceeds from the "Brothers of War" book account for replenishment.

Elder Affairs and the Middle School with funding from CIT will begin a program of reading with the students one time/month on Friday mornings. North Reading Schools Superintendant recommended that the book titled "The Wonder" be required reading for every Junior High School child to expose them to compassion, diversity, understanding and kindness toward others. This will involve participation from every school employee; 30 seniors will be encouraged to join and assist with the reading throughout the school year.

Promote the COA

COA Director, Mary Prenney and Board Member, Joe Veno are North Reading Housing Board members where they continuously promote and explore options for much needed Senior Housing for North Reading elders. Chairman of the Board, Brian Snell, interfaces with health

care professionals/facilities in Reading; they have offered van transportation, social activities, etc. to North Reading Seniors. Board Member, Eleanor Fritsch, is joining a group at the FONRCOA interested in promoting/enhancing trips/social events offered for all seniors to enjoy. Board Member, Rich Wallner, routinely interfaces with the Directors from the YMCA in Reading who are interested in promoting programs/events/needs for the betterment for North Reading Seniors.

Friends of the COA Update

No representative was present this meeting.

Old Business

No old business discussed.

New Business

COA Officer nominations/elections will be done at next COA Board meeting. Mrs. Fritsch, a reappointed COA Board member will need to be sworn in by Town Clerk for her new term.

Director, Mary Prenney, gave all COA Board Members a copy of the "Mandatory Training Requirements Summaries and Online Training" packet. State law requires that all Town Board Members complete/verify this training. Town Clerk, Barbara Stats, has requested verification from any Board Member who has previously completed this training. Mrs. Prenney will submit returned and signed forms by COA Board Members to Town Clerk.

For the year 2014, the Board is committed to brainstorming new ideas, plans, and programs for a better and "Ideal Senior Center." The Board acknowledges that going forward will be a challenge due to the increase in the number and span of age differences and diversity among these seniors. The Board also acknowledges that the costs associated with providing a much needed updated Senior Center and new senior housing may require many interested parties coming together to organize and focus for a "master plan and vision."

(See attached ideas for "Ideal Senior Center.")

Adjourn---8:25M

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

Next COA Board Meeting scheduled for February 12, 2014

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen L. Donato, COA Secretary_____