

## **Council on Aging Minutes**

### **January 16, 2013**

Chairman Snell called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM at the Senior Center. Present were Mary Prenney, Director of Elder Services, Mr. Veno, Mr. Broughton, Mrs. Donato. Mr. Wallner arrived late. Absent was Mrs. Fritsch.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Approval of Minutes of December 5, 2012

Motion made by Mr. Veno and seconded by Mr. Broughton. Voted 4-0 unanimous.

#### Director's Report:

Mrs. Prenney spoke of the following:

- The Newsletter is at the printer. An insert will be included in the letter relating to the hike in property taxes and possible options for residents deemed in need to get assistance in paying their taxes. Application Forms requesting consideration for aid must be filed with "The Tax Aid Committee" before February 15, 2013.
- Representative from MVES and COA hosted a talk at the Senior center on December 13, 2012 on "What is Important to Local Adults." Representatives from the Town of North Reading selectmen were present; it was reported that they were very enlightened by the Senior Services that are offered as well as hearing from the elders what services that the seniors felt would best suit their needs in the future. Transportation and increased outings for socialization continue to be hot topics. Another open discussion will be planned for the near future; the selectmen agreed this would be advantageous for seniors and were very much in favor of participating again.
- The next West Side Parking discussion will be held with the Historical Commission on February 25, 2013.
- FY14 budget: The first draft of budget is due January 22, 2013. Please see Director's Report posted at The Senior center for details.
- FY14 Capital Request: Request for funds for a new van for senior transportation has been made as well as a request for new carpeting for the O'Leary Senior Center.
- Elder Affairs is looking at possible changes to its Transportation Policy and hope to be able to provide full day trips and increased medical transport.

See full Director's Report posted at senior Center for additional details.

#### Promote the COA:

Chairman, Brian Snell, and COA Board Member, Richard Wallner, attended the December 13, 2012 open discussion meeting, "What is Important to Local Adults" held at the O'Leary Senior Center jointly with MVES and Elder Affairs. They were able to meet/listen and address North Reading Seniors present and future needs.

Friends of the COA update:

Billie Skerrett represented the FONRCOA at the 1/16/13 COA meeting and updated the Board on plans for their Annual Town Yard Sale scheduled for April, 2013. Their next meeting to discuss/finalize plans is scheduled for 2/1/13.

Resource Guide Project:

Richard Wallner reported that "The Social Service Action Team" is ready and scheduled to publish The Resource Guide about February 13, 2013. The Resource Guide will also be available on "The Community Impact Team" *website*.

Old Business: None discussed.

New Business:

In response to the joint meeting held at the Senior Center on 12/13/12 with MVES and representatives from the North Reading Board of Selectmen and Elder Affairs, the board agreed to brainstorm ideas at its next meeting to meet and discuss how to enhance our Seniors needs to socialize, go on outings, engage in intellectual stimulation, and identify the needs for communication/internet devices and transportation for Seniors.

Adjourn: 8:05 PM

Motion to adjourn made by Joe veno and seconded by Ed Broughton.

Next meeting of the COA is scheduled for February 20, 2013.

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