

## **Council on Aging Minutes**

### **December 5, 2012**

Chairman Snell called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM at the Senior Center. Present were, Mary Prenney, Director of Elder Services, Mr. Veno, Mrs. Fritsch, and Mrs. Donato. Absent were Mr. Wallner and Mr. Broughton.

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2012

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

#### Director's Report:

Mrs. Prenney spoke of the following:

- Next COA Newsletter will advertise for a new Board Member.
- On December 13<sup>th</sup> at 1PM, Representatives from MVES and our COA will host a talk for the public on "What is Important to Local Adults." Selectman Prisco is expected to attend as it is expected that there will be many questions from elders in regards to the newly approved tax hike as well as the High/Middle School Building Project.
- The COA Holiday Party is scheduled for 12/20 at the Center. The Friends plan to decorate the Center and deliver holiday plants to Home Delivered Meals clients.
- Mrs. Prenney has met with the Town Engineer and Historical Commission in regards to the construction plans for the new parking spaces on the West Side of the Building on the Common. Next meeting is scheduled for January 2013; it is hoped that revised plans will be approved in order to start construction in Spring of 2013.
- The Batchelder School is holding a Spaghetti Dinner and Winter Concert on 12/18 at 5:30 PM and they plan to invite/transport 20 Seniors to the event.
- A New/Old Taxation Aid Committee will meet on 1/15/2013. This group plans to aid/guide financially distressed Seniors and Disabled tax payers with applying for tax relief.

A full report is posted at The Senior Center.

#### Friends of the COA Update:

No representative was present. An invitation will be extended for January 2013.

#### Resource Guide Project:

It was reported that the "Social Service Action Team" has produced a first draft of the Resource Guide.

#### Promote the COA:

The Board has made the suggestion that a Bimonthly COA Newsletter would enhance/promote/provide current information, activities, and issues related to North Reading Seniors. It was discussed that increased volunteer time and finances to produce a Bimonthly Letter would be problematic.

Old Business:

In response to discussion made by COA Board that it would benefit Seniors to have access/opportunity to learn computer skills and mobile devices, it was reported by Mrs. Fritsch and Mrs. Penney that:

- The Senior Center in Lynnfield has access to 2 computers and that 2 volunteers are available for a small fee of \$7/2 hours of instruction for both computer and mobile device instruction. One must call the Lynnfield Senior Center to make a reservation.
- The Reading Senior Center has 4-5 volunteers at no charge available for computer instruction on Tuesdays at 9AM and Wednesdays at 10AM. It is suggested that a prior call be made before attending.
- The Middleton Senior Center has a volunteer available on Thursdays and has extended an invitation for North Reading Seniors. A prior call should be made before attending.
- Mrs. Prenney has consulted with a representative of North Reading High School regarding possible use of their computers and resources for use by North Reading Seniors in the future. It was reported that there are many issues with securing the use of the Computers at the High School: this will need to be tabled at this time.

New Business:

Mr. Broughton's 3 year term has expired and the position for a COA Member will be advertised.

Next meeting of COA is scheduled for January 16, 2013.

Adjourn 8:03pm

Motion made to adjourn made Mr. Veno and seconded by Mrs. Fritsch. Voted 4-0 unanimous.

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

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