

North Reading Council on Aging
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 15, 2015

Meeting called to order by Chairman Snell at 7:08PM at the O'Leary Senior Center. Present: Mary Prenney, Director, Brian Snell, Joe Veno, Rich Wallner and Maureen Donato. Guest Present: Fran Cheney. Absent: Eleanor Fritsch.

Board welcomed and introduced themselves to Fran Cheney who is interested in serving as an Alternate Member to the COA Board.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from March 18, 2015 Meeting

Motion to approve made by Joe Veno and seconded by Maureen Donato—unanimous.

Director's Report

See attached copy of Director's Report for complete information.

- Newsletters were mailed April 14, 2015,
- Friend's of the COA are holding their Annual Town Wide Sale on Saturday, April 25, 2015.
- Friends are working with the Garden Club and the Arsenault Family who are donating proceeds from *Brothers of War* book for a Blue Star Memorial War marker which is a tribute to The Armed Forces of America to be installed at Ipswich River Park in May.
- Waiting for finished model from New England Wheels of new COA van.
- FY 16 COA Budget was approved by Board and will be presented at Town Meeting June 1st. Request was made for \$10,000 for new copier/fax/scanner machine.
- CIT and SSAT are setting date for a workshop/presentation along with the Middlesex DA's office called "Learn 2 Cope" which will address addictions in older adults and the effects on their families.
- SSAT is also in process of exploring a Hoarding Task Force for Hoarders for the Town.
- CMS, in anticipation of celebrating the 50th year of the Older American Act, is looking to recognize the oldest Senior Center in Massachusetts: Mary Prenney is looking into the year of incorporation of the North Reading Senior Center.
- Ramps at the Senior Center to be repaired weekend of April 18.
- Brian Snell, Chairman, has become a new member of the Board at MVES.
- Town of North Reading receives \$800,000 in fees for services from MVES.
- Volunteer Breakfast to be held at the O'Leary Center, May 22nd at 9 AM.

Promote the COA

Host Sites have been scheduled for this years COA Board Trainings Sessions. Nearest training 9/9/15 at Danvers (No. Shore Elder Services. (See copy of schedule.)

Friend's of the COA Update

No Member from the NRFCOA was present.

Old Business

Joe Veno informed Board that he met with the Town Administrator, Mr. Gilleberto, briefly to obtain clarification/approval of the Board's plan to revise/update the 2011 Policies and Procedures. COA Board is interested in increasing the number of Board Members and setting a quorum to hold a meeting. The Board would also like clarification about adding an Associate Member to the Board and if the Associate can participate in the meeting process, vote, and make a quorum for holding a meeting when necessary. After some discussion about these decisions, the Chair felt that the Board should table this discussion until he next Board Meeting in order to give the TA time to look at the Town of NR Bylaws and report his findings back to Joe Veno.

Rich Wallner reported that the newly formed Senior Action Team (SAT) is making progress setting up 8 subcommittees with Chairs. Their idea of an ideal Community Town Center would be a place for multigenerational use for families and seniors and youth to obtain information, recreation, services, etc. Some of the offices and services considered for such a Center could include Veterans Services, Parks and Recreation, Transportation, Housing, Human and Youth Services and a place/community center for senior activities, resources and information, etc. Mr. Wallner reported that the BOS has a 10 year capital plan which they can use to address the housing gap problem in North Reading.
(Please see March 2015 meeting notes for additional info).

Mary Prenney plans to meet with the NR Police Chief in anticipation of setting up a coffee hour for the community and seniors to learn Self Defense techniques. She also reported that the CIT is involved in writing a grant in order to obtain funds to address the pressing intergenerational problem of rapid drug abuse affecting the NR community.

New Business

No new Business discussed.

Adjourn---8:05 PM

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

Next COA Board meeting scheduled for May 20, 2015.

Respectfully submitted:

Maureen L. Donato, COA Secretary