

# North Reading Council on Aging Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 18, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:00PM at the O'Leary Senior Center, Present were: Mary Prenney, Jim Broughton, Joe Veno, Eleanor Fritsch, and Maureen Donato.

Absent: Brian Snell and Rich Wallner

## Pledge of Allegiance

## Approval of Minutes from June 19, 2013

Motion made by Ed Broughton and seconded Maureen Donato. Approved 4-0 unanimous.

## Directors Report:

Newsletter is in process of going to NRHS co-editors.

Michele Cronin is now the Full Time Van Driver (35 hours.)

The FY October Capital Request---The Selectmen will ask at Town Meeting that approval be granted for replacing the flooring at the COA Senior Center. The base flooring is very old and the Selectmen have asked John Welch, Building Superintendent, to work very closely with the Elder Affairs Department on the appropriate flooring for the Senior Center.

The COA Van is being used to transport wheel-chair disabled residents to out of Town medical appointments as well as taking elder residents to visit family members to nursing home facilities in surrounding towns. The program for once-a month day trips for elders also continues.

The FY14 Formula Grant has awarded a \$1pp increase to the Massachusetts Councils bringing the total award for NR to \$21,712. This will be used to purchase a new lap top and printer for the Senior Center.

The COA staff has expressed some stress due to the loss of over 20 Seniors since the first of the year. Contact was made with the Middlesex Employee Assistance Program to have a Social Worker meet with the staff on 9/20/2013 in order to express their feelings of loss and how to proceed in a positive manner/direction.

A new program called "Eating Local" started last month. 2 x month, free transportation is provided by the van to local restaurants; participants pay their own bill.

The COA Board took note of the statistics presented by MVES from the 2010 Census that North Reading has the largest growing elder population (60+); it has grown by 300 on the 2012 Census. This has been presented to the NR Selectmen.

*(See attached Directors Report for completed details.)*

Promote the COA:

The NRCOA along with MVES participated in the town sponsored "National Night Out" on 8/6/2013 from 5pm to 8pm at Ipswich River Park. An information booth was set up and pamphlets were given out on Safety and Crime Prevention. "File of Life" holders with magnets for adherence to refrigerators were given out. A "File of Life" folder contains a person's medical history, list of medications, contact persons, etc. made available for Emergency Responders. The North Reading Resource Guide was made available to those who attended.

Director, Mary Prenny, Rich Wallner and Ed Broughton manned the booth.

Friends of the COA Update:

No representative from "Friends" was present.

Old Business:

The discussion and plans to "brain storm" the topic on how the COA Board can advocate/improve activities/socialization/welfare of our elders was tabled until next meeting scheduled October 16, 2013.

New Business:

Brian Snell, Esq., Chairman, North Reading Council on Aging Board, has written to MVES to inform, Dan O'Leary, Executive Director, that the NRCOA Board has voted unanimously to reappoint Mary Prenney as a member of the Board of Directors until 9/30/2016.

Eleanor Fritsch attended COA's in Andover, Reading and Lynnfield regarding their operation of providing socialization, activities and methods of providing monthly newsletters for elders. NRCOA newsletter is published quarterly. Updates/events are provided weekly in "Transcript" or The North Reading "Patch" which is updated daily on-line.

Adjourn: -- 7:50pm

Motion to adjourn made by Ed Broughton and seconded by Maureen Donato, unanimous.

Next Meeting scheduled for October 16, 2013

Respectfully submitted:

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

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