

Minutes from the Groton Council on Aging Board Meeting February 1, 2016

Members Present: Maydelle Gamester, Marie Melican, Gail Chalmers, George Faircloth, Richard Marton, Charlotte Carkin, Vera Strickland, Eddie Wenzel, Ellen Baxendale

Staff Present: Kathy Shelp, Stacey Shepard Jones

Selectman Liason: Peter Cunningham

COA Planning Committee: Mihran Keoseian

Open Meeting: Meeting called to order by Maydelle Gamester at 9:30 am

Minutes: December 2015 minutes presented by Board Secretary, Gail Chalmers. Minutes were review correction was brought to our attention, thus correction initiated and a motion to accept was called by George Faircloth, 2nd by Vera Strickland. All unanimous approval accepted.

Mihran Keoseian: Mihran Keoseian, presented a visual and verbal update regarding the COA's long term planning committee's progress and/or what direction is being exercised. Key points are; the Center's Core Beliefs, the Center's Mission and Vision, Facility Feasibility Study, Public Awareness, Formation of a Feasibility Oversight Committee.

Treasurer's Report: George Faircloth presented the COA December 2015 Expense and January 2016 Expense Summary's was reviewed by the board and Director Shelp.

Motion to Accept was called by Gail Chalmers, 2nd by Ed Wenzel. All unanimous approval accepted.

Stacey Shepard-Jones- Outreach Coordinator

The Emergency Preparedness forms went out in the 2016 census. We've received a lot of the forms back, and there are a lot of new names!!! I am working on inputting all the new names and information.

The Wind Point Foundation donated another \$5,000.00 in December to go into the Additional Fuel Assistance account. The balance is now \$26,151.68. Wind Point sent us a letter with the donation stating that in the future, if needed, we could use some of the money to help seniors with weatherization. We have not received any requests for additional fuel assistance yet.

George Faircloth was able to create a list of all residents 80+. We will be sending birthday cards to all of these residents. The card lists the outreach services we provide.

Kathy Santiago (not available, Kathy Shelp gave the report)-Activities/Volunteer Coordinator:

Music Therapy- Need to cancel (not what people expected)

Pizza & movie – 29 in attendance for Jan

Veterans Breakfast -31 attended

Women's Club Lunch-63 attended Kate Carney (Lowell Boardinghouse keeper)

Nashoba Tech Lunch -40 attended Richard Howe (Lowell Cemetery)!!!

Book Club -8 attended

Talk with Tom-9 attended

Yoga-average attendance -8

Strength Training average attendance-12

Star Wars Movie Trip-5 attended

Creative Creations-Donna & Marian (full classes)

Cultural Excursion to Lowell Boott Mill Museum (full)

Upcoming

Monday Movies

Jay Darrin Trip to IMAX-full w/ waiting list

Tax Prep- Full added 2 days

Kathy Shelp: Director

- Kathy submitted the proposal for the Feasibility Oversight Committee. The committee consists of:
Mihran Keoseian, COA Planning Committee
George Faircloth, COA Board
Michelle Collette, Groton Planner
Beverly Smith, citizen
John Ameral, citizen
Gary Green, Finn Committee
Peter Cunningham, Selectman

Non-Voting:
Mark Haddad
Kathy Shelp

A motion was made to accept the recommendation for the Feasibility Committee as stated. The motion was made Gail Chalmers and 2nd by Marie Melican. . All unanimous approval accepted.

- Kathy submitted a proposal for a Gift Account Policy:
“The Groton Council on Aging gift account is money donated to the COA to supplement programs and services. It is spent at the discretion of the COA Director in amounts up to \$249. Expenditures \$250 and above require an affirmative majority vote by the Council on Aging Board.”

There was discussion and a motion made by Maydelle Gamester, 2nd by Marie Melican to accept the policy as written. All unanimous approval accepted.

- Kathy submitted a proposal for a change in the Van policy:

COST:

\$3 for round trip in town with 12 ride vouchers for \$30 available. Out of town service is \$4 for round trip with 12 ride vouchers for \$40. In the event the van travels outside of our service area an additional fee may be applied. Scholarships are available if needed, please contact the COA Outreach Coordinator for information. *At their discretion COA staff may waive the fee for clients in need.* There was discussion and a motion made by George Faircloth, 2nd by Maydelle Gamester to accept the policy as written. All unanimous approval accepted

- Kathy will be submitting a grant to UMASS Memorial Health Alliance Hospital Foundation for monies to purchase an Tablet and cost for one year of cellular hotspot for FY17 as an upstart to our new outreach program, **Virtual Connections**. The grant will be for approximately \$1,500. The IPAD will be used by volunteers during visits to homebound and vulnerable seniors to access information on the internet. Some things accessed will include: virtual museums, you-tube, skypeing, patient portals, Ted Talks, Health Education and other items of interest to the resident. The cost of the internet access is \$35 per month with the first year included in the grant. Kathy asked for the board’s support, should this program be successful, to fund the cellular hotspot in our FY18 budget.

There was discussion and a motion made by George Faircloth, 2nd by Maydelle Gamester to support the inclusion of a mobile hotspot in our FY18 budget should the outreach program be successful.

- Grant and sponsorship support YTD FY16:
 - \$850 Friends of Nashoba Hospital for Brains Matter Program Evening
 - \$850 CHNA 9 for Brains Matter Program Daytime
 - \$250 Nashoba Realty for craft supplies
 - \$200 Friends of Groton Elders for Theorem Painting instructor
 - \$300 Friends of Groton Elders for Robert Frost instructor
 - \$1250 Friends of the Groton Elders Bus to Tanglewood
 - \$300 RiverCourt Residence sponsorship of Fall Program book
 - \$200 Groton Cultural Council for Kate Carney – Lowell Mill Worker program.
 - \$1000 Trust fund entertainment/speakers lunch time programs.

\$5,200 total

Motion to accept Directors/Outreach/Activities report by Marie Melican , 2nd by Vera Strickland, unanimous approval accepted.

Next Board of Directors meeting Monday, March 7, 2016 at 9:30

Motion to close the meeting 11:00 was made by Maydelle Gamester, 2nd by George Faircloth. All unanimous approval accepted.

Respectfully Submitted by

Gail M. Chalmers
Secretary
Groton Council of Aging
February 1, 2016