

Minutes from the Groton Council On Aging  
Board Meeting  
January 9, 2017

Members Present: Kathy Sheedy, Norma Garvin,  
Ed Wenzell, Richard Marton, Vera Strickland,  
Gail Chalmers, Ellen Baxendale, George  
Faircloth, Helen Sienkiewicz

Staff Present: Kathy Shelp, Stacey Shepard-Jones,  
Kathy Santiago

Others Present: Peter Cunningham, Selectman Liason

Open Meeting: Meeting called to order by  
Gail Chalmers at 9:31 a.m.

Minutes: Minutes from December 5, presented by  
Helen Sienkiewicz. Minutes were reviewed and  
a motion to accept by Ellen Baxendale, 2nd  
by Vera Strickland. All unanimous approval  
accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Prepared by George Faircloth.  
Kathy Shelp explained report. Motion to accept  
was made by Ellen Baxendale, 2nd by Norma  
Garvin. All unanimous approval accepted.

Outreach Coordinator Report: Stacey Shepard-Jones  
explained about helping folks with fuel-  
assistance. There is currently \$30,000 dollars  
in fuel-assistance fund.  
She also spoke of the gift baskets and  
wreaths that were presented to residents  
during the holidays.

The emergency preparedness sheets were mailed out with the census questionnaires to all residents. Ed Wenzell spoke about verifying the information. Ellen Baxendale mentioned that the information should be done yearly.

Activities/Volunteer Coordinator: Kathy Santiago reported that the activities attendance numbers were down during December. All regular programs are going well. Jay Darrin will no longer be doing the cultural event trips after May, 2017. He will be missed. The folks from the new Hindu Temple will be coming in to meet with town residents.

The preparation of the New Year's meal was a struggle in our small kitchen. It was a huge success, never the less.

Director's Report: Kathy Shelp explained that the management of the volunteer program now is done by the C.O.A. There are 30 positions available. Other than providing financial information, it is not impossible to get into the program.

Kathy also mentioned there will be a Building Feasibility Committee meeting this Friday, January 13 at Town Hall. She also spoke about the architects plans for the Prescott School and the C.O.A. location.

Ellen Baxendale asked about location of C.O.A. programs while possible renovations are going on.

Peter Cunningham spoke of meeting tonight for Selectmen, to give their opinion on the C.O.A. location. Gail Chalmers mentioned her concern with letting the process play out. There will be a charette held here at the C.O.A. on Saturday, February 25. A mediator will be present and residents should r.s.v.p.

Kathy Shep was interviewed by the Boston Globe concerning the Groton Neighbors program, and how the C.O.A. feels about the program. They were asked about how they will deal with any elder abuse issues that are reported to them. George Faircloth explained about the Groton Neighbors program and its extensive approval system.

Kathy Sheedy encouraged all of us to visit the Prescott School to get an informed opinion.

Motion to accept the Directors and staff reports was made by Ed Wenzell, 2nd by Ellen Baxendale. All unanimous approval accepted.

Next meeting will be February 6, 2017 at 9:30a.m.

Motion to close the meeting was made by Jean Sheedy, 2nd by George Faircloth. All unanimous approval accepted.

Respectfully Submitted by  
Helen Sienkiewicz, Secretary, Groton C.O.A.  
January 9, 2017