



TOWN OF GROTON

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Office of the:
Council on Aging
Kathy Shelp, Director

COA Future Planning Committee Meeting September 21, 2015 1:00pm @COA Minutes

Members Present: Gail Chalmers, George Faircloth, Mihran Keoseian, Bob Lotz, Marie Melican, Norma Garvin

Selectman: Peter Cunningham

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

Meeting was opened by Kathy Shelp, COA Director, 1:00.

A motion to accept Set 21 minutes was made by George Faircloth with a 2nd by Bob Lotz. Unanimously approved.

Director's Updates:

- Kathy reported that staff attended a conference by the MCOA which included sessions covering; Community Centers for older Adults and Mixed Age Community Centers, and Designing a Wellness Center. The session on community center for older adults (senior centers) will be available in a power point format and shared with this committee when received. It is the opinion of the director and staff after attending the program on Mixed Age Community Centers that it is not an optimal option and should only be considered when all options are exhausted. Most communities represented in this session that have gone to mixed age centers are facing many challenges and frustrations of the senior center directors. One example of success in this is Natick, however their staffing structure does not correlate to Groton's and it would entail a sizable increase in town staffing for proper leadership.
- Kathy and Stacey completed focus groups at the two senior housing with one a successful group with quality input and the second a challenge in extracting information. No useful information was gathered as directed in the focus group outline however there was valuable information gathered with respect to the outreach needs of this community.
- Kathy will meet with the Groton Trust to understand the needs of the senior community through their gifts.

Matters for Noting

- Mihran reviewed the updated action plan to include a request to the town for a Feasibility Study at the Spring Town meeting. There was discussion as to the timeline of visiting other senior centers. After discussion it was agreed that individuals will do this as their

schedule permits and notify the committee as to their plan in the event other committee members would like to join them.

Matters for Review and Discussion

The committee began working on the SWOT Analysis and completed our Strengths and Weaknesses in a draft form.

Next meeting will be November 23, 1pm

A motion to close the meeting was made by Norma Garvin and 2nd by Marie Melican at 2:45pm
Unanimously approved

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Shelp, COA Director