

Town of Norfolk Council on Aging
Minutes of Board Meeting
December 18, 2017

Ms. Beth Vallee, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:35am.

Board Members in Attendance: Beth Vallee, Chairman; Richard Connors, Barbara Phillips, Janice Axberg, Tom Mirabile, Jerry Calhoun

Staff in Attendance: Christine Quinn

Guests Present: Debbie Grover

Motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2017 were made by Jerry Calhoun and Barbara Phillips. The minutes were approved by a voice vote.

Opened meeting with introductions to Debbie Grover who was a guest at the meeting and is interested in joining the Board. After introductions all around, Debbie was welcomed as an associate member. She is still fully employed and her employer has indicated that they will be supportive of her need to attend the daytime meetings.

Janice Axberg shared her experience with Identity Theft as a warning to all that we can never let our guard down with incoming telephone calls. The callers were very shrewd and convincing – the repercussions of being victimized by a financial scam are far reaching and last long after the theft has been uncovered and stopped.

Executive Director Report:

Salary budget for this year has a surplus due to the driver's position being converted from a salaried to an hourly position as well as the vacant outreach position. Ginny's retirement will create another opening. Christine is placing a high priority on hiring both an outreach worker and a secretary.

Kathy Sebring is on board and performing very well. Her duties include writing the newsletter, press releases, social media, and researching new programs.

Expense Budget from the town is on track – approximately half of the budget remains unspent.

Formula Grant money per Elder Affairs has not yet been set; it is expected to decrease to \$9.07. This will give us an expected grant total of \$15,801 for this fiscal year. We have permission from the town to spend/borrow from the grant.

A new wellness provider, TransCare, has been hired and additional podiatry services will be provided on site by them. They can also provide audiology and other services. Dr. Cooper is still on board. The demand is too great for him to meet so the podiatrist from TransCare will be here to expand services.

Barbara Phillips has volunteered to be our new Trip Coordinator.

Program Notes:

Please refer to the Silver Set Gazette newsletter for a comprehensive list of all programs and offerings.

Tom Mirabile suggested future programs on the benefits and pitfalls of Reverse Mortgages and also scam warning programs.

Fuel assistance – reapplying is less complicated than the original application.

Staff report:

Kathy Sebring has taken over the responsibility for PR going forward. Tom Mirabile will not be doing PR going forward unless requested. He has shared his list of outlets with Christine.

Correspondence:

Letter from Bill Crane was sent to everyone on the Board as well as the Selectman and Town Administrator. No action to be taken at this time.

HESSCO Report: Nothing to report at this time.

Friends of the COA Report: No report at this time.

Senior Tax Work-Off Program:

The COA has been asked to review this program and present a proposal for rules going forward. Current Program – residents aged 65 and over can earn up to \$750 per year in part-time jobs with the Town of Norfolk. Income is considered taxable income for federal income tax purposes; tax-free for Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The program has a total cap of \$10,000.

Consensus was reached on the following: age of eligibility should be reduced to age 60; wage should be minimum wage; increase the total amount to \$1,000 per taxpayer; ask the town to double the total program cap to \$20,000; COA Director should have an administrative role only and not be asked to propose matches for other departments. Other terms of eligibility and program requirements were discussed. It was agreed to continue the discussion at a separate meeting on Monday January 8th at 9:30 am.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00am Next meeting January 29th.

Respectfully Submitted,



Elisabeth R. Vallee