

Council on Aging Board

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

Present: Chair Marilyn Hurst, Secretary Ellie Tyson, Acting Director Michael Squindo, Marybeth Bergeron, John Bowen, Saul Finestone, Phil Hallahan, Fran Miffitt, Julia Moulton, George Shea, Eleanor Stolar, Select Board Liason Marie Angelides.

Absent: Jay Leib, Fannie Lin, Vice Chair Rose Morace.

- I. **Welcome:** Meeting called to order at 9:35 am. Marilyn felt Amy's "send off" went very well. Marybeth noted that the 17th was "National Kindness Day." Marilyn stated that the COA needs representation on choosing the next director of the center. Also, FOLOCA is looking at new tables for the dining room.
- II. **Acceptance of Minutes:** Minutes were approved. One correction; Amy was here 2 ½ years not 1 ½ years.
- III. **Treasurer's report:** Michael gave the Treasurer's report and gave a correction or type-o in the Fund balances in the report. A motion to have a time line for the new director to be chosen. Motion seconded. Open for discussion. Upon discussion, Saul made a motion to table it at this time. We need to contact Stephen Crane and request an end date for the new director. Marie indicated that a letter to the select board to suggest that Stephen have a date for the new director. George: move to modify what Marie has said. Phil: we need to put a specific date. Marie: They are flooded by applications and yesterday, February 15th they cut off receiving new applications. A letter to the select board giving March 31st as the date to have a new director in place.
- IV. **Reports:**
 - a. **Director:** We are working on a design for the new center. The team includes Marco Crescentini, Architect, from Dietz and Co. Others include Stephen Crane, Bari Jarvis, Marie Angelides, and Michael Squindo. We are working on a grant regarding a program of "Live your life well", a workshop on April 12, 2017; a round robin table discussion on the healthy way of aging. It was awarded to COA councils and are given \$600 for lunch, prizes and etc. If there are any topics we want to hear about, let Mike know. Saul questioned if the warrant passes do we get \$250,000 for a design? We are all frustrated with the process and need to be better prepared for the next town meeting.
 - b. **Select Board:** Regarding the design of the facility we have to show what the community wants. Deitz is working its magic and March 6th at the select board meeting will see what we can afford. If they start from scratch what the footprint will be for the center. It will definitely be an override. Marybeth feels that even seniors would shoot down a high price building. On another note we need to send in the application for an age friendly town. Also, the revolving fund is not on spring warrant according to Stephen Crane. Phil stated his concern regarding the new facility is that we are linked together with the school and DPW projects. Marie stated that we are not tied in with these other projects. We need a landscape artist and a park design of the area to show the community.

- c. **GSSI:** The department of elder affairs was present at the GSSI meeting. The talk was of abuse on elders. There are a lot of seniors out there at risk. The new director is trying to turn the GSSI around.
 - d. **FOLOCA:** Did not meet the month of February.
 - e. **Advocacy:** No report.
-
- V. **Announcements:** The Longmeadow Adult Spelling Bee, April 29th, held at St. Mary's Academy. Ages are 18 and up.
 - VI. **Old Business:** Sani-can update: we will wait until warmer weather to bring it up.
 - VII. **New Business:** On National Kindness Day, conduct one act of kindness. Recognize an act and place it in a container at the center. Marybeth is putting Jim Russell's name in for Citizen of the Year award.
 - VIII. **Adjournment:** 11:30 am meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellie Tyson