

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 2018  
CLERK

**COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING**

**Minutes of the Council on Aging Board Meeting held on June 14, 2018**

**Members Present:** William Byron, Ruth Banfield, Peter Cirioni, Ruth Delmonico, Susan Pauley

**Associate members present:** Brian Burke and Kathy O'Brien

**Absent:** Members: Steve Dungan and Susan Matatia; Associate member, Kate Hogan

**The Director of the COA,** Alyson Toole was present.

**Outreach Worker,** Sharon Funkhouser was in attendance.

A quorum being present, the meeting began at 10:07 a.m.

**Secretary's Report** was accepted as written.

**Liaison Reports:**

- **The Community Services Coordinator** sent a report for the month of May. She listed thirty contacts made during the month and thirteen households served. She provided assistance and made referrals in a number of categories.
- **Selectman, Brian Burke,** spoke of the certificate presented to Allen Wheeler at the last Selectman's meeting. Mr. Wheeler has stepped down as president of the Friends of the Council on Aging Committee. During his tenure, he raised thousands of dollars to benefit the COA. Before he officially resigned he presented to the COA a brand new \$55,000 van.

Brian again mentioned the need to have a vehicle to inform members of the board of a community member's passing. This will be an agenda item in the fall.

**Outreach Reports:**

**Sharon Funkhouser-**

**Outreach-**

- Attended a discharge planning meeting with a family at a rehab facility. We were advocating for the patient to remain there until stronger. The client was sent home only to return to the hospital in less than a week. We will meet to strategize the options.
- I'm accompanying a senior to a neurologist who is having challenges.
- Another client faces many issues but is unwilling to accept services. He did agree to go to the food pantry.
- Providing support to two families that are dealing with the loss of a parent.
- We are assisting with two condo clean-outs with man power and referrals to non-profits. Gifts of Hope will donate some of these items to those starting over and dealing with domestic violence.

**Training-**I will be attending a Serve-Safe (food handling) training to be recertified.

**Volunteers-**

- We completed our Bridges Together Program with the fourth graders at the Community Center with a tour, slide show, and quilt project.
- Our Savers fundraiser was a huge success with 619 bags of clothing and 50 boxes of household goods. Several volunteers helped load these into the truck.
- Our volunteer appreciation party is planned for July.

**Events-**

- At the end of the fiscal year we had to tighten our belts a bit, so the lunch bunch went to local restaurants.

- Two garden tours are planned; one with poetry, music, and refreshments and the other with lunch.
- Every month, we have a Red Sox Game Day. Our next is June 21.
- Next month, we're planning a trip to Pawtucket for a game.
- Our lunch and movie has been popular with over twenty people the past few times.

#### **Suzanne Howley**

#### **Trips and Events-**

- On 6/20, a talk on the benefits of using a home care agency.
- On 6/21, an attorney will present a legal talk on protecting the home.
- On 8/9, The Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program will address the confusion about the Medicare replacement cards.
- There are two cruises scheduled; on 7/18, the Annisquam River Cruise and on 8/22, the Indian Princess cruise which requires an early head count and menu choice.
- On 10/18, there will be a honky-tonk piano show which the Friends have supported.

#### **Client Work-**

- We continue to assist a client with many issues. Currently the COA staff, veterans' agent, and Minuteman protective services are all involved. Minuteman is trying to get a money manager and a conservator.
- Two other families need a great deal of support because their mothers need full time care which seems to be an increasing trend.

#### **Fuel Assistance-**

SMOC and the Salvation Army programs have ended for the season. They are out of funds. There is still the possibility of Friends Fuel Assistance Program for Stow seniors. The SMOC fuel assistance starts on 11/01. We will not have the documents until mid-October.

#### **Director's Report:**

- Friends President, Al Wheeler, gifted a brand new 12 passenger van which can carry 10 passengers and two wheelchairs. It needs to be lettered. One of the old vans needs to be retired; either sold or auctioned.
- We need more substitute drivers. Two candidates are without a CDL, one is willing to receive training.
- Serve Safe-Three hour training and testing on handling food safely
- Ran out of funds in April. Friends have helped out. We're trying to reign in the distances for events and streamline the transportation. A committee consisting of Alyson, Gigi, Susan, and Peter will study our transportation program.
- June 30th is the end of the fiscal year; we need a year end inventory.
- We will submit a grant for more hours for Gigi and Lauren.
- The Robo calls from the COA have not had the COA caller ID and phone number which have caused confusion to many. The Friends have approved the cost of having the COA ID and phone number from now on.
- There have been a number of instances where the IT dept. has failed help when difficulties arise. Other departments have had similar issues. Mr. Wrigley should be made aware of this problem.

**No other Business: The Meeting adjourned at 11:15 A. M.,**

Respectfully submitted Ruth A. Delmonico, Secretary

*Ruth A. Delmonico*  
September 20, 2018