



Town of Middlefield Council on Aging

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MINUTES – DECEMBER 11th, 2013

The meeting was called at 1:37 PM. All members were present.

Minutes from the November 27th meeting were reviewed and unanimously approved.

Howard reminded members that items which required a board meeting and approval should not be discussed prior to that meeting. Group emails could violate Open Meeting rules.

Meal site coordinator: Suzanne Lemieux has been hired by the BOS. She will be asked to do a time sheet to track hours. George will arrange training.

Winter shut-down: Howard asked to consider having the seniors go to a restaurant for lunch during the coldest winter months instead of paying the heating expense of meals at the senior center. Heating costs might be \$50-70 a plate during the coldest months. No concerns were expressed by COA or the seniors. Howard will go to the SB.

Member Commitment: Howard asks the board members to consider a 1 year commitment beyond June 30, 2014. He felt this commitment would allow the COA to mature and have time to solidify.

Consortium: Howard says George is welcome at our board meetings at any time, but wonders if the consortium is at a crossroads. He noted a unanimous concern by members at the last Consortium meeting with George's perceived over involvement at the various towns.

George says some COA's are taking full local control rather than using the consortium. George also points out that the statistics gathered by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs are used to justify yearly appropriation requests to the legislature and a system is needed to track participation. He says some senior centers are now using magnetic cards for electronic attendance reporting. Applications for grant money for this equipment are due by Dec. 20th. Pros and cons of electronic monitoring are discussed. Kim suggests we do not proceed at this time.

Paperwork: Suzanne will take over lunch related paperwork. Howard shows the board a simple spread sheet he has designed which might replace the current forms if electronic reporting is permitted.

Transportation: Kim asked if we as a town could pay for transport of seniors rather than use FRTA. It is noted that FRTA receives federal and state money. It is decided more study is needed before a vote.

Brown Bags: there has been some negative feedback regarding food quality. George mentions that seasonality affects selections. Howard suggests making sure people are connected to Huntington food bank and Food Stamps. Outreach could help identify needs.

By laws: Howard has queried the town attorney. He suggested that we should discard our current by laws because they have major conflicts with the existing town by laws. "Guidelines" rather than "by laws" are suggested. The alternative is to prepare changes to the Town By-laws for presentation and vote at the annual town meeting.

Outreach report - Marge:

Marge changed her work hours are changed to increase availability on Wednesdays.

Cathy Roth has agreed to help make outreach calls.

I talked to Chester regarding sharing rides for outings.

Helped coordinate transportation to Gateway brunch and concert, wrote thank you to brunch team.

Had seniors sign card for ailing member, checked her status with family and delivered card while at BMC.

Delivered scarves donated by Valerie Knickerbocker to Soldier On.

Did phone check with a lunch group member who was absent for a few weeks.

Consortium: George said we need to review programs and expenditures and possibly re-appropriate money. We need to look ahead to the 2014/15 budget for how to provide services and measure their related costs. We have to decide how to use the \$4000 from the state and craft a request to the Finance Committee for the Town grant. For best results we need to hear from our seniors. We wonder what would bring them to the senior center. George mentions that there are grants available and he is working on some for other towns.

Cultural Council: The Cultural Council has granted the COA \$600.

New business: Howard questioned the lunch group as to what would increase senior participation.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote at 3:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Marge Pierre and Howard Knickerbocker