



Town of Middlefield Council on Aging

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**COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2014
1:00 PM at the Senior Center**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Chairman Howard Knickerbocker, Judi Artioli, Kim Baker, Marge Pierre, Priscilla Suriner, Judy White, Tom Ryan.

Present: Sherri Venditti, Marge Batorski, George Reichart, Cathy Roth, Judy Hoag, Noreen Suriner.

- Chairman Howard Knickerbocker opened the meeting at 1:00 PM

Weather Cancellation:

- Howard announced that he cancelled the seniors' luncheon tomorrow due to the extreme cold, and possible snowfall of 6". Priscilla Suriner mentioned that if Gateway Regional School cancels because of inclement weather, the luncheon is automatically cancelled.

Appointment:

- Tom Ryan was appointed to be a member of the COA Board by the Board of Selectmen on Monday, January 13, 2014, and sworn in by Town Clerk Marge Batorski.

Minutes:

- December 11, 2013 minutes were reviewed. Comments were requested, receiving none. Howard Knickerbocker made a motion to accept the minutes of December 11, 2013. Kim Baker seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.
- January 8, 2014 minutes were reviewed. Comments were requested, receiving none. Howard made a motion to accept the minutes of January 8, 2014. Kim Baker seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Consortium:

- Howard Knickerbocker brought up a discussion about Middlefield's Council on Aging membership in the Consortium. Howard stated that there will be no funding of Highland Valley this year and several towns have dropped out. The COA has a full board who could take on the duties of the Director of the Consortium George Reichart. George sets budgets and controls spending. The COA needs a very simple Standard Practice Notebook which contains paperwork of every procedure that needs to be done.
- Treasurer Kim Baker stated that the town pays the Consortium \$900 a year. Kim asked George Reichart for a copy of the Consortium's budget.
- Several people expressed opinions about belonging to the Consortium. Some opinions included that it was too soon to consider withdrawing from the COA because it was a new board and still is in a learning process. Others felt that Middlefield could resort to

isolationism which will not benefit its seniors. Appreciation of George's wealth of knowledge was noted. Other opinions too numerous to mention were expressed as well.

- George Reichart stated that his job was to help with transitions. Some of his duties include guiding new boards and new personnel. George states that the State of Massachusetts supports the Consortium because people working together make a difference.
- Howard Knickerbocker made a motion to table the discussion on the Consortium to a future meeting. Kim Baker seconded the motion. Marge Pierre, Judy White, Tom Ryan, Priscilla Suriner and Kim Baker were in favor. Judi Artioli voted to support the Consortium. Motion passes.

Town Hall Maintenance:

- Several people thanked Howard for the work that he has done regarding the energy usage of the Senior Center.

Rules and Regulations re: COA Board:

- It was suggested that the COA Board follow Robert's Rules of Orders. It was also suggested that the Board members have discussions and then authorize actions.

Term Limits:

- Howard announced that he will fulfill his obligation as Chairman until the end of his term.

February 5 luncheon:

- Judy White announced that a town resident who wishes to remain anonymous has offered the seniors who regularly attend the COA luncheons on Wednesdays, a free lunch at Ozzie's restaurant in Dalton in memory of Brian Miller. The lunch will be held Feb 5, 2014 at noontime. Judy needs a count by Monday the 3rd.

Next Meeting:

- Next meeting will be held on February 12, 2014 at 1:30P.M.

Adjournment:

- Howard Knickerbocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:20P.M. Kim Baker seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Informational Items:

Middlefield Projection of Census for Population over 60 years of age.
Final recommendations for the Heating of the COA meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary