



# Town of Middlefield Council on Aging

[coa@middlefieldma.net](mailto:coa@middlefieldma.net)

**COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING**  
**May 21, 2014**  
**1:30 P.M. at the Senior Center**

## MINUTES

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Howard Knickerbocker, Judy Artioli, Kim Baker, Judy Hoag, Marge Pierre, Tom Ryan, and Ed Vivier.

Regrets: Laurie Lafreniere, Priscilla Suriner, and Judy White.

Present: Marge Batorski and George Reichert

Chairman Howard Knickerbocker opened the meeting at 1:30 P.M.

**Announcement:** Mary Ann Walsh requested that an announcement be made about a meeting being held at Azure Green on April 17. Berkshire Organic will talk about setting up an organic food co-op.

### **Minutes:**

The minutes of April 16 were reviewed. Howard made a motion to accept the minutes of March 19, 2014 as edited. Kim Baker seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

### **Town Meeting:**

The Warrants for changing the COA term to a 3 year staggered and remodeling the bathroom passed unanimously at the town meeting. The Attorney General needs to approve the staggered terms. \$ 10,000 has been appropriated for remodeling the bathroom.

### **Energy Update:**

Estimated total propane usage was about \$4,500 to heat the COA building from December 2013 to present. That amount is about \$3,000 less than last year's invoices. Replacing the furnace would save 20% of the fuel usage and provide a safety heating margin for the building.

### **Appointments:**

Kim Baker and Tom Ryan are retiring from the COA Board. Marge Batorski signed on. The other Board Members at the meeting volunteered to be reappointed. Officers will be elected in July.

### **Treasurer Report:**

Kim Baker gave an update to the Board. Kim will retire at the end of this term. It was a busy year for Kim. He had to catch up on the FRTA. Everyone's data has been handed in except for one. The FRTA is allowing payments to be made electronically which saves one visit to the Post Office. The state money has been used up; we're working on the town money with a balance of \$2,600. Howard suggested that extraordinary expenses should not be made without approval of the Board.

### **Consortium:**

George Reichert talked about the trends affecting our state:

**Transportation:** Seniors that are giving up driving is escalating. The State is focusing on regional transportation.

**Funds available:** There is \$60,000 available for the next federal fiscal year for Highland Valley for elder services. Highland Valley feels that the focus should be on setting up cooperative programs with the Council on Aging groups.

**Health Plan** A survey will be done in the Hilltowns to figure out the best way to serve the community.

George needs two people to come to the meetings to focus on these problems.

**Computers:**

Three older computers will be available at the Town Hall for use by the community. Fiber and Wi-Fi connectivity is available there.

**Telephone failure:**

As a result of the failure, the phone in the kitchen is not working. Debate ensued on whether replacing it is necessary.

**Brown Bag:**

Procedure for mailing funds was agreed on. A check covering the donations will be sent to Western Mass Food Bank. A call will be placed to the Food Bank asking which department receives the funds.

**Next Meeting:**

June 18, 2014 at 1:30 P.M.

**Adjournment:**

Howard Knickerbocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 P.M. Marge Pierre seconded the motion. All were in favor. 0 opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux  
Recording Secretary