



TOWN OF MIDDLEFIELD

COUNCIL ON AGING

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Council on Aging Meeting

September 7, 2016

1:40 at the Senior Center

MINUTES

Board Members present: Chair Judith Hoag, Marge Batorski, Lois Leonardo-Bell, Laura Lafreniere and Priscilla Suriner
Priscilla left the meeting at 1:55.

Regrets: Judy Artioli and Edward Vivier

Outreach Director: Phil Burns

Guests: Patricia Jones and Marge Pierre

Minutes: August 3rd minutes were reviewed. Laurie made a motion to accept, Marge seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Outreach Director

- Phil Burns updated the Board. He has an updated list of schedules from Steve Connors, the Hampshire County Director in North Hampton. His goal is to hold a meeting as a Shine Counselor once a month coinciding with the Veteran's schedule. He left a Veteran's Bill of Rights and benefits available to Veteran's and surviving spouses' paperwork on the table.
- Huntington uses a program called 'Communities Involved in Sustaining Agriculture' that provides fresh produce from contributing farmers at a cost of \$10 per person for a season. Phil will write a draft, explaining the desire to have access to this program, present it to the COA's and the Consortium, and will send the approved letter to our state legislators.
- A meeting will be held with Alice Bonners, Secretary of Elder Affairs to inform her of senior needs. Issues will include transportation, home maintenance and home repair, access to healthy foods, internet access.
- People applying for food stamps should call ahead to the office for an appointment. Lois will pick up the guidelines for food stamps.
- Open enrollment begins in October for Insurance. Discussion ensued setting aside a day to have a 'Medicare 101' seminar. Phil will check on setting a date with John Bergeron for this event. Handouts would be appreciated.

Winter Preparedness

- Laurie described the pattern of the thermal curtain fabric that has been ordered. These will be purchased with \$700 of state money and \$1700 of town money. The curtains do a better job than plastic on windows. The cost of heating and electricity for 2015/2016 was \$2,200. The cost before the roof was done was \$8,000.

Events

- Porch Light 'Fall Prevention' workshop on September 21 at 1:00pm; Flu shots and blood pressure clinic on October 19th from 10am and noon. Cost of blood pressure clinic discussed. Suzanne will research.
- Middlefield Days are on October 15. Emergency Preparedness and Brown Bag programs to be scheduled in November.

Dump Run Café calendar

- Sept 18 (Judith H), 25 (Marge P), Judy Artioli will be asked about the 2nd of October.

Tax work-off program

- Senior with less than \$20,000 income and married couple making less than \$30,000 could be earning up to \$500 in abatements. Speak to Laurie about this.

Artwork:

- Discussion on checking rules and regulations concerning the new senior center sign. Judy Artioli will be presenting sketches to the Board.

Priscilla left at 1:55

Next meeting: October 5th

Adjournment: Marge Batorski made a motion to adjourn at 3:15 Lois seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzanne C. Lemieux
Recording Secretary

