



Town of Middlefield Council on Aging

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COUNCIL ON AGING MEETING
JANUARY 8, 2014
1:30 PM at the Senior Center

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Judi Artioli, Kim Baker, Howard Knickerbocker, Marge Pierre and Priscilla Suriner.

Present: Sherri Venditti, Marge Batorski, Tom Ryan and George Reichart

Howard Knickerbocker opened the meeting at 1:40PM

Building Study:

- Howard submitted a COA Building Study. Howard stated that he has spent 80 to 90 hours characterizing the building and has put instrumentation in. As a result of these actions Howard feels that he has a good understanding of how the building works, its' shortcomings, etc. On December 30, Howard told the Select Board that he was done with his testing and COA activities could resume. The outcome of this study is that Howard believes that he drove the energy usage of this building from about \$6,500 to about \$2,000. Grant availability and funding options were discussed.

Appointment :

- Kim Baker introduced Tom Ryan who has expressed an interest in becoming a COA Board member. George Reichart stated that Tom needs to be appointed by the Board of Selectman, and then CORI checked. Howard will work on getting a letter of appointment for Tom. George asked to be notified when this is done.

Lunches:

- Howard suggested that as soon as the weather improves for safer driving, having the seniors dine out would be a great alternative.

Outreach:

- George explained how Outreach communicated to seniors. Some suggestions included newsletters; Board involved in neighborhood watches; privately paid staff. George cited Council on Aging newsletter from Russell, MA as an example of newsletters. Discussion of doing a survey to find out seniors needs and how to get people involved. Ideas were discussed for winter events.

Treasurers Report:

- Kim Baker submitted a print-out of the COA Formula Grant Budget FY 2014. Kim explained that at the current rate of spending, we could take on a few more things such as repairs, maintenance and utilities. Kim would like to see the phone and electricity bill included in this budget. Howard stated that the building's utility bills are included in the town's maintenance of town buildings expenses. Howard is having the administrative assistant sort out the Propane usage of this building.

Survey:

- George Reichart conducted a survey that was mailed to him from the Mass Council on Aging. Questions were as follows:
 1. Economic standing of seniors in Middlefield? Non-payment of taxes and other ways to find out answers were discussed.
 2. Do seniors have adequate Health Care? Different forms of insurance were discussed. This could be an issue for some seniors.
 3. Availability of long-term health care adequate? General consensus is that seniors have access to various health agencies who offer this.
 4. Transportation? Judy Artioli is handling this and feels that it is adequate.
 5. Affordable Housing? Senior housing is not available in Middlefield.

Serve-Safe:

Howard Knickerbocker made a motion for the Board to pay for a serve- safe course to be attended by Suzanne C. Lemieux in Pittsfield MA for \$155 which will be taken out of the Meal-site Coordinators fund. Marge Pierre seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Other Business:

Howard has created a mailing list of all the seniors. Mailing labels can be produced and it can be sorted alphabetically and by street.

Next Meeting: Next meeting will be held on February 12, 2014 at 1:30 PM.

Adjournment: Howard Knickerbocker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:50P.M. Kim Baker seconded the motion. All were in favor and none opposed.

Informational Items:

COA Formula Grant Budget- FY 2014

COA Building Study

Respectfully submitted,

Suzanne C. Lemieux