

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – January 9, 2019

Board Members Present: Pat Gold, Carol Airasian, Bertha Anderson, Burt Greenberg, Mary Keenan, Janet McCullough & Arlene Smith

Staff Members Present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director, and Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk

Excused Absences: Dorothy-Jean Brown and Esther Keaney

Pat Gold called the meeting to order at 4:10 PM

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the December 12, 2018. Mary Keenan made a motion to approve and Pat Gold seconded; Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon reviewed the financial statements. The month of January brings us half way through the fiscal year and we are looking at projections for the end of the year in June. Two grants from the Watertown Community Foundation were deposited to the Senior Center Revolving. One is for \$900 for a Senior Supper Club/Brain Games program (during summer evening hours) and the other is for \$750 for a “Zen Art and Mindfulness” program taught by our art instructor, Dawn Scaltreto. Burt was impressed with Holiday Party ticket sales. Anne-Marie noted the tickets were \$16.00. The Food Pantry has a healthy budget with more food donations from various groups as well as monetary donations coming in from the annual drive. Carol Airasian appreciated the Food Pantry appeal being included in the newsletter which helped to reach more people. Anne-Marie thanked Kathy Cunningham, Food Pantry Coordinator, for her great work. Kathy has a core group of volunteers as well as other volunteers that come in and bag as well as deliver. Volunteers include employees from local company VHB, students from Perkins School for the Blind with their caretakers and a group of students from Watertown High School. All have helped prepare bags for pick up and some make home deliveries. Burt suggested the Board send a “thank you” to Kathy for all her hard work.

Updates and Status Reports

Snow Removal Program update. In the past Town Councilor Ken Woodland ran the program and did a great job and unfortunately can no longer continue. Anne-Marie met with Recreation Director, Peter Centola to discuss the future of the program. The Committee for Health and Human Services of the Town Council suggested last year that the program be led by the Recreation Department in partnership with the Senior Center. The Senior Center will take names and addresses of seniors looking for help and will be paired with students via the Recreation Department. Hopefully it will be launched soon. The Recreation Department will manage the effort.

Winter Programs and Events. Tom Tracy, Town Auditor, Nancy Heffernan, Watertown Treasurer/Collector, Earl Smith, Chairman of the Board of Assessors and Cara O'Neill, Assistant Assessor, were here today presenting a lecture on different programs available to residents. They also discussed scams, instructing seniors to involve the

Police Department. Watertown Cable Access TV filmed the event. Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan will be presenting a lecture on Winter Scam Awareness at the end of the month.

Senior Transportation Planner, Laura Wiener, along with the Planning Department are developing a Parking Management Plan for Watertown Square and Coolidge Square. There will be an on-line survey. Anne-Marie will be sure to get hard copies here at the Senior Center as well.

Pat Gold requested a lecture on Low Vision that will be held on January 16th. Mike Cataruzolo from Perkins School for the Blind will be presenting.

AARP Tax Preparation will begin February 1st with 5 to 6 clients each day. There will also be an Estate Planning Lecture in January.

Public Health Nurse, Will VanDinter, started "Ask a Nurse" and blood pressure clinic this month and will continue monthly, the 1st Wednesday of each month. The Mount Auburn Hospital blood pressure clinic will continue as well.

Overview of FY2020 Council on Aging Budget Process

Anne-Marie mentioned that she is in the process of preparing the COA budget for FY2020 in accordance with the Town Council Budget Guidelines. In May, Anne-Marie will appear before the Town Council to discuss the FY2020 figures.

New Business and Member Items

Anne-Marie mentioned that the 2020 Census is coming and how important it will be for us to help seniors complete the information should they request help. We want to make sure the Census is as accurate as possible, particularly since our State Formula Grant is based on Census numbers.

Anne-Marie discussed Board terms and Committees noting that 3 members' terms will be expiring in May.

Adjourn

Mary Keenan made a motion to adjourn and Arlene Smith seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk