Minutes of COA Board Meeting – July 10, 2019

Board Members Present: Pat Gold, Carol Airasian, Dorothy-Jean Brown, Burt Greenberg, Esther Keaney, Mary Keenan and Arlene Smith

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

Excused Absences: Janet McCullough

Watertown Residents Tom Lewis, Julianne Lindsay, Francis Stanizzi, Paul Stanizzi and David Buccieri were also in attendance.

Pat Gold called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The Board members reviewed the minutes of the June 12, 2019 meeting. Carol Airasian made a motion to approve and Esther Keaney seconded; Passed.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon reviewed the financial statements. FY ’19 has come to a close. The EOEA Grant funds have been spent down as well as most line items. Thank you to Debbie for the great programming throughout the year.
Kathy Cunningham, Food Pantry Coordinator, has been working with the Greater Boston Food Bank and Project Bread which has helped round out expenditures.
The Marshall Home Fund Taxi and AID accounts are on target.

Services Report

Using My Senior Center, Margie Wayne, Program Services Assistant has compared FY ’18 to FY ’19 and noted that the shuttle bus use has increased. The driver has applications for key cards on board and encourages everyone to register. Attendance at the center has increased as well with the average age range of 70-85 years of age. The statistics report does not include phone calls, parking permits, walk-ins for services with Marina or information.

Pat Gold asked about the purchase of new key tags with the Town of Watertown Seal on them. The Board discussed the purchase as well as a $3.00 replacement/lost card suggested donation. Pat Gold made a motion to purchase. Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded. Motion was passed.

Marina Kirsanova, Case Worker, report shows number of clients served which has increased since January.

Activities Report

a. Fitness Programs include the addition of Chair Volleyball to Friday morning, it is a nice opportunity for anyone who would like to exercise but has mobility issues. No charge for the class. Tai Chi will resume in September as well as Strength and Balance. The Book Club will resume meeting in September.

The trip to Gloucester was a success and there were “huge thanks” to the Friends for sponsoring the trip to lower the cost which sold out. There was a trip to Portland with a coastal bus ride and cruise. Debbie has planned a trip to the Villa in Wayland with a visit to the Christmas Tree Shop, the Norman Rockwell Museum and the Red Lion Inn as well as Yuletide in Newport, RI.

Debbie’s coffee/retirement celebration will be July 30th and all are welcome. Anne-Marie and the Board thanked Debbie for all her hard work and dedication to the Town and the seniors of Watertown.

Directors Report

a. Property Tax Work Off Program
Anne-Marie is still recruiting for the Property Tax Work Off Program. Participants receive $1500.00 for 125 hours of service. The Senior Center, Assessors Office, Veterans Office, the Library and Commander’s Mansion have used the services of residents. The program is income based and it is a great opportunity for people with skills to share them.

b. Faire on the Square: September 28, 2019 at Saltonstall Park
We are looking for volunteers to staff the booth at the Faire on the Square. It has always been a nice day to reconnect with friends.

Report from the Friends of the Watertown COA

a. Retirement Party for Debbie Dunn – July 30, 2019
Mary Keenan mentioned that the Friends will be happy with the party.

New Business

Burt Greenberg again expressed concern over the Budget Hearing held in May and comments by Councilor Palomba. Anne-Marie encouraged the Board to review the WCA-TV tape of the budget hearing to understand Burt’s concerns, and shared that Councilor Palomba called her to express his interest in attending a future Board meeting. Anne-Marie offered to play the WCA-TV recording for the Board members at the close of this meeting.

Adjourn

Mary Keenan made a motion to adjourn and Dorothy-Jean Brown seconded. The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk