

Minutes of COA Board Meeting – March 14, 2018

Board Members Present: Carol Airasian, Bertha Anderson, Dorothy-Jean Brown, Esther Keaney

Excused Absence: Pat Gold, Burt Greenberg, Mary Keenan, Linda Moffitt and Alice Wadden

Staff Members Present: Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director; Deborah Dunn, Program Coordinator; Kathleen Cunningham, Food Pantry Coordinator and Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk.

Carol Airasian called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM . Bertha Anderson seconded.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the February 14, 2018 meeting will be brought forward at the April 2018 meeting as we did not have a quorum.

Review of Financial Statements

Anne-Marie Gagnon, Director, reviewed the financial statements stating we are on target for spending.

Watertown Food Pantry Update ~ Kathy Cunningham, Coordinator

Anne-Marie introduced Kathy Cunningham, the new Food Pantry Coordinator who started in June 2017. Kathy is very happy in the position and doing a great job. Carol Airasian asked Kathy what type of taxable items the Food Pantry could use. The Food Pantry has a “take two” table for some items that are donated, otherwise the Pantry has a list of preferred foods to be donated that are stocked regularly. Coffee is a key item clients ask for. The Boy Scouts did a food drive which provided many items. Kathy has asked clients to bring reusable bags with them which has helped with the expense of buying paper bags. The bags are pre-packed for clients using guidelines according to the number of people in the family and food can be picked up once a month. She has a great staff of volunteers and the Food Pantry serves 124 families with a varied number of family members. The Food Pantry is seeing new people and serves clients speak 8-10 different languages. Kathy explained the Food Pantry is fortunate to have some great donors and contributors. Kathy would like to see a brown bag and coffee drive. The Food Pantry supplies fresh produce bought at Russo’s and during the growing season fresh produce is purchased from the Boston Area Gleaners. Food for Free makes donations to the food pantry. Kathy picks up donations of leftover food supplies on the 3rd Friday of every month from the Greater Boston Food Bank in conjunction with the American Legion Nonantum Post 440 Veterans group. Kathy opened the Food Pantry during the recent storms. There are three Atrium School students volunteering on Thursdays through June. Bertha Anderson said it was great to have Kathy with us and the rest of the Board welcomed her as well.

Meeting Time Review

The discussion on meeting time review was tabled until the April meeting as we did not have a quorum.

March/April Activities Update

Due to the recent snowstorm, Anne-Marie’s “Age Friendly” lecture and the Baked Potato event sponsored by Home Instead will be rescheduled.

- a. **Charlie Card Event** will take place on Tuesday, March 27th and is sponsored by the Office of State Senator Will Brownsberger.

- b. Honoring Choices** will be hosted at the Belmont COA on April 10 at the Belmont Beech Street Center.
- c. Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, April 24** will take place at the Senior Center and Debbie Dunn is working on the details.

George Buckley, retired Watertown High School Science Department Director will be giving a lecture on his film “Bonaire Bonanza” on April 11th. A class on “Polymer Clay with Dawn” will take place on April 18th. AARP will be presenting a lecture on “Driver Safety” on April 25th and there is a trip scheduled for April 25th to visit the Museum of Fine Arts.

Update on Grants

- a. Marshall Home Fund 2018** application is due this Friday. Anne-Marie is in the process of finishing the application. The 2017 contribution was used for our Garden Project, Supplemental Transportation Grant and the Emergency Assistance Block Grant.

New Business

The Watertown Savings Bank Customer Choice Awards ceremony will take place on Tuesday, March 20th at the American Legion Nonantum Post 440 in Newton. Kathy Cunningham and a few volunteers will attend to accept the donation to the Watertown Food Pantry and Anne-Marie will attend to accept a donation to the COA/Senior Center. Anne-Marie extended the invitation to the Board and staff.

The Watertown Town Council will be voting on summer hours at the next Council meeting. If voted in, this will be a trial for Senior Center hours this summer, following the Town Hall summer schedule of being open Tuesdays from 8:30 AM to 7:00 PM and Fridays 8:30 AM until 2:00 PM.

Adjourn

Dorothy-Jean made a motion to adjourn and Esther seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Grassia, Principal Account Clerk