

Commission on Aging (COA)

Minutes from November 20, 2014 Meeting

Call to Order: 10:30 am by Chairwoman Jovita Cozean

Present: Suzanne Bostelman, Jovita Cozean, Jo Golec, Rosalie Hoffman, MaryEllen Klinck, John Pagnani, Brad Parker, Vicki Riley-Pach

Absent: Ernie Malavasi, Jim O'Brien, Alice Sabo: all excused

Secretary's Report: Accepted on motion Rosalie Hoffman, seconded by Jo Golec

Treasurer's Report: Fund 52 Account: \$5,542.33. No change.

Correspondence:

1. Jovita Cozean received response from town Selectman reappointing Alice Sabo, Jovita Cozean, Rosalie Hoffman plus 2 alternates: MaryEllen Klinck & Suzanne Bostelman.
2. Received request from Selectman's Office for meeting schedule.

Chairwoman's Report: No report

Citizens' Concerns: None

Old Business:

1. "Are You OK?" Call System update: Craig Mansfield (Manager, EH Emergency Management Call System). Conversation focused on the procedure for volunteers. Important to "close the loop" each day:
 - a. Automated calls will take place each morning; will be completed very quickly.
 - b. Issue: no way to know if the response is actually from the intended senior.
 - c. Hour later, a report will be generated that will list the response/non-response from the automated "Are you OK?" calls: Confirmed, unanswered, etc.
 - d. If call is not confirmed, backup (family, friend, neighbor) will have to be contacted. Seniors will have to provide 2 backup contacts.
 - e. Backups will not automatically be called. The volunteer on duty that morning must contact the backup people. Contact can be via email, cell phone, home phone, text.
 - f. Backups will have to be trained.
 - g. Will need a volunteer and a backup volunteer each day.
 - h. Craig can set up a "drop box" or "google drive" account for all volunteers to share/access. Report can also be emailed to volunteers. Can be rec'd on smart phone. This file can also contain the volunteer schedule.
2. Sub-committee will meet again to work on the sign up forms.
3. Town attorney will review. Will also provide waivers to "hold volunteers harmless".
4. Committee hopes to have seniors signed up by April 1.
5. Informational/training meetings will be held for seniors, backups, and volunteers.
6. Officially start the program on July 1

New Business: None

Coordinator of Senior Services Report: Brad Parker reported on the following:

1. Attendance numbers are consistently high and continue to increase. So far this year, our numbers are 50% higher over 2013. At some point, attendance will level off.
2. High attendance activities are Mah Jongg, Tai Chi. Pilates and Exercise Room numbers are increasing steadily.
3. The Center raised \$500 for Fuel Bank (Ham & Bean dinner proceeds).
4. Today: Bus went to Windham Tech Culinary Kitchen for lunch.
5. Today: AARP Driver Safety class
6. November events:
 - a. BellTones instructed a group
 - b. Line Dancing – 5 classes, going to Cadillac Ranch November 23rd
7. December events:
 - a. Holiday Pot Luck Luncheon Dec 8: Middle School Choir will entertain
 - b. Carol sing Dec 14: bus will go to shut ins, Chestelm, & Oak Grove
 - c. New Year's Luncheon Dec 31; T-Bone Stankus will entertain
 - d. Cora Blancato, Therapeutic Masseuse will be back
8. Pot Luck Luncheons and Dinners will occur every other month
9. Elementary School children: providing art work for display
10. Fuel assistance sign up has been ongoing since October 1. So far, 80 applicants. We sponsored two days of appointments; four volunteers helped us with the appointments. We will continue to schedule appointments on an individual basis.
11. Medicare Open Enrollment: one counseling day remains. Had one in October & November.
12. Darlene Dunbar has offered to visit local seniors who do not visit the Senior Center to encourage them to do so. Will bring Newsletter, calendar, etc.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 22, 2015

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon on motion Jo Golec; seconded by Suzanne Bostelman.

Respectfully Submitted: Susannah Griffin