

Commission on Aging (COA)

Minutes from March 27, 2014 Meeting

Call to Order: 10:35 am by Chairwoman Jo Golec.

Present: Rosalie Hoffman, Jovita Cozean, Jo Golec, Jim O'Brien, Mary Ellen Klinck, Brad Parker

Absent: Alice Sabo, Suzanne Bostelman, John Pagnani, Ernie Malavasi, Vicky Riley-Pach: all excused

Secretary's Report: Accepted on motion by Jim O'Brien, seconded by Jovita Cozean

Treasurer's Report: Jim O'Brien is awaiting the exact dollar amount from Cindy Varricchio; safe and exercise equipment invoices have been paid.

Correspondence:

1. Alice Sabo letter stating she will not attend March meeting.
2. Jo Golec presented two get well cards for the members to sign: Alice Sabo, Suzanne Bostelman

Chairwoman's Report: No report.

Old Business:

1. Brad Parker reminded the members to submit the names of volunteers to be invited to the Volunteer Reception, April 30th.
2. Brad Parker updated members regarding the Senior Housing renovation grant status. Letters of support from the community are due by April 8th. Brad responded to Jo Golec's question that handicapped units have wider doorways, wider entrance and accessible bathrooms.

New Business:

1. Mary Ellen Klinck reported that the "Right to Die" bill in the State of Connecticut is a "dead bill". Did not make it to the floor for a vote.
2. Brad Parker reported that State Representative Melissa Ziobron and State Senator Art Linares will be at the Senior Center on April 21st, 1:30 pm, to discuss "Energy Opportunities for Your Home". Citizens of East Haddam have been voicing concerns about the drastic increase in electricity rates. The PURA (Public Utilities Regulatory Authority) is looking into the huge increases by electric companies.
3. Rosalie Hoffmann suggested that the bus be deployed to pick up seniors for the April 30th Pot Luck dinner. Jo Golec responded that the bus was offered in the past but no riders. Brad Parker mentioned that there has been interest in the Thursday lunch/bus this month. We are continuing to promote this service.
4. Rosalie Hoffman inquired about the town "call system" for seniors; Brad Parker will look into the status.

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

1. New exercise equipment has arrived. Many positive comments from users. Usage of the exercise room continues to increase.
2. The safe has arrived and is being used.
3. The cabinet is being constructed.

4. February attendance numbers were pretty good even though we had many days of bad weather. Four days no lunch delivered. One day senior center closed. Events cancelled: Red Hats, Casino.
5. March attendance numbers will be higher: 90 people at Pancake Breakfast, 95 people at the St. Pat's Day Luncheon. Workshops: Lifeline, SNAP.
6. 9 Town Transit reports that the number of riders is steadily increasing. A bus stop will be installed at the Town Office Complex and will be part of the regular route.
7. Upcoming Events:
 - April 17th: Newport Dinner Train
 - April 21st: "Energy Opportunities for Your Home" workshop
 - April 23rd: AARP Driver Safety workshop
 - April 24th: Daffodil Festival Luncheon & entertainment
 - April 28th: SNAP sign up
 - April 28th: Pot Luck Dinner
 - April 30th: Volunteer Reception for Senior Center volunteers

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am on motion by Rosalie Hoffman, seconded by Jim O'Brien.

Respectfully Submitted: Susannah Griffin