

Commission on Aging (COA)

Minutes from March 26, 2015 Meeting

Call to Order: 10:37 am by Chairwoman Jovita Cozean

Present: Suzanne Bostelman, Jovita Cozean, Jo Golec, Rosalie Hoffman, MaryEllen Klinck, Jim O'Brien, John Pagnani, Brad Parker, Vicki Riley-Pach, Alice Sabo

Absent: Ernie Malavasi: excused

Secretary's Report: Jovita Cozean asked for a motion to approve the January minutes. Rosalie Hoffman offered a change to those minutes regarding the Town of Marlborough Call Program: the Senior Coordinator went to homes; called a nurse volunteer if needed. The Call Program was discontinued due to lack of funding to upgrade. Jovita Cozean asked for a motion to approve the January minutes. Rosalie Hoffman approved; Jo Golec seconded.

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

Correspondence: None

Chairwoman's Report: No report

Citizens' Concerns: None

Old Business:

1. John Pagnani presented an update regarding the *"Are You OK?" Call System*. Passed out a 3-page draft regarding the Preparation, Protocol and Recruitment of Volunteers. Many questions and issues remain:
 - a. Weekend and holiday coverage is still an issue.
 - b. The Call Program requires too much responsibility for volunteers.
 - c. What is the optimum time to place robo calls each morning to accommodate the "callees" as well as the volunteers? Jovita Cozean suggested we ask that question on the registration form.
 - d. Brad Parker commented that he cannot be the "first line responder" because of his responsibilities at the Senior Center each morning.
 - e. Brad Parker mentioned that we have advertised the *Call Program* in the *Events Magazine*, the Senior Center Newsletter - no responses to date.
 - f. Brad Parker concerned that our target audience, the homebound, may not have heard about the program. He told the committee that Darlene Dunbar, who will soon be visiting seniors in their homes, could discuss along with the programs and activities that take place via and at the Senior Center.

- g. Alice Sabo asked if this *Call Program* is worthwhile considering the small response. Also: seniors have a tendency to hang up on automated calls due to so much telemarketing.
 - h. Suzanne Bostelman mentioned that we know who the shut-ins are; do they have Lifeline or something similar?
 - i. Jo Golec asked if there are grants available for personal emergency alert systems.
2. John Pagnani commented that perhaps there are other options to the “Are You OK?” Call System. If the number that sign up is small, perhaps a friendly call every day from a volunteer would work better.
- a. Suzanne Bostelman explained that she has a neighbor whom she calls daily. Takes to appointments, etc.
 - b. John Pagnani offered two choices: continue to develop the call program or wait, collect data and adapt the program. Group decided to wait for now. Darlene will start visiting Seniors in April; COA will wait to get her feedback.

New Business: Jovita Cozean requested volunteers for the nominating committee for officers for next term which begins July 1: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Corresponding Secretary. Suzanne Bostelman, John Pagnani, MaryEllen Klinck volunteered to be the Committee; will present nominees at the May meeting; voting will then take place. Discussion followed regarding the term limits and other bylaws. Brad Parker explained that there are no term limits and clarified that the COA is governed by town ordinances not bylaws. John Pagnani then suggested that the current officers stay on for a second term. All agreed. Nominating Committee will offer their names as nominees to be voted on during May meeting.

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

1. Attendance numbers are still high even with the winter weather.
2. Upcoming events: Healthy Living Expo March 28, I-Park Discussion April 13, Pot Luck Dinner April 20, Volunteer Reception April 22, 9/11 Memorial Museum Trip April 23, Massage April 29, Spring Fling May 5, Bloodmobile May 28, Tag Sale August 8, Ogunquit, Maine trip June 1 – 3.
3. Last month’s events: St. Pat’s Luncheon (80 attendees), tax preparation 4 times last month, Pancake Breakfast.
4. Applying for bus grant that will pay 80%. Already have the 20%.
5. Please write letters to support *Small Cities Grant* for Oak Grove renovations. Second phase will renovate kitchens, heat pumps, paving. First phase renovated windows, sliding doors, roofs, generators.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 28, 2015

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am on motion by Jo Golec; seconded by Alice Sabo.

Respectfully Submitted: Susannah Griffin