DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2017

Present: Chairman Leanne Jasset, Sherri Hannigan, Geraldine Pacheco, Diane Barry Preston, Russ Poole, Maureen Teti, Sandra Tocman, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller, COA Director Sheila Pransky

Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM.

Absent: Marie-Louise Kehoe

Public Discussion:

* Once the Public Safety Complex is completed, Hana Heald asked what will happen to the land where the Police Department is currently situated. She thought a park would be an asset to the square and would benefit the seniors from the nearby Senior Center.

Minutes: Sandy made a motion, seconded by Geri, to accept the April minutes. So voted.

Director's Report:

* From a welcoming tea to meeting town staff and volunteers, Sheila had a very busy month as the new director and thanked the COA Board for their continued support.
* Town Meetings Attended: Mini-Town Meeting, the Semi-Annual Town Meeting, and the Board of Selectman.
* Sheila attended a Livable Dedham meeting and is now a member of the Steering Committee along with Marie-Louise Kehoe and Diane Barry Preston. She attended the interview with the Tufts Foundation for the grant application and the presentation of the walkability audit.
* Sheila attended the Mother Brook Open Studios event and has many ideas for a working partnership with the art collaboratives and artists.
* New instructors for Tai Chi, Meditation, and active Yoga classes are being hired.
* Programs: There will be an "open studio" painting opportunity during the summer for those who wish to continue painting at the center. Painting with Fran, Zumba, and Chair Yoga will also continue during the summer months.
* Future programs: Two bus trips have been added for the month of June and there is a plan to continue doing this monthly. Demonstration fitness classes will be offered during the summer with the goal of including these as scheduled classes in the new center. A Walking Club is also being planned.
* Special Events: A baseball themed program and a concert by singer Mellow were held at Traditions. The COA was also able to obtain tickets to the Norwood Theater for Bye Bye Birdie and lunch in June.
* A meeting is planned at the Town Hall in mid-June for members of town government and various boards where Sheila will present some of the plans for the new center and ask for feedback and ideas for the opening. Focus groups will also meet during the summer for seniors and interested town residents.
* Social Media: In an effort to improve communication with town residents, a new FaceBook page for the Council on Aging has been created that will have a link to the newsletter and announcements for upcoming events. Sheila is also speaking with a communications consultant to assist in the development of written materials, social media, and other communication tools.

HESSCO:

* Board training this month was on the home care program.
* HESSCO Programs: Options counseling for people who do not know what they may need (also available at Traditions), Elder Abuse, Family Caregivers, and Money Management.
* The Changing Aging Tour is coming to Foxboro in June.
* SHINE funds have been cut by the federal government with further cuts coming.

New Business:

* Livable Dedham: The Walk Audit showed how sidewalks must be improved for connectability to services. Walk Audit Consultant Mark Fenton is returning to meet with various boards and will train walk auditors for the town.
* The Livable Dedham Steering Committee is waiting to hear about the Tufts Grant. If awarded, it will pay for a part time project coordinator.
* Russ is still concerned about the Property Tax Relief Bill. Sheila will talk to Representative Paul McMurtry about possible resources for seniors.

Old Business:

* The Over 90's Luncheon is on June 13th.
* There is still confusion about the programs available for seniors at the Dedham Health Club. Programs should be advertised more to encourage participation.
* Meals on Wheels will probably not be located in the new Senior Center because of problems with access, time of use, and parking.
* Sherri and Sandy expressed their strong desire for the center to have congregate meals. Sherri stressed that congregate meals provide nutrition and an opportunity for those who are socially isolated to spend time interacting with others. The Board will investigate options for the program.
* There was discussion about COA accounts administered by the town, revitalization of the Friends, and the newsletter.

Motion made by Diane, seconded by Russ, to adjourn. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.