DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2017

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

Meeting called to order at 5:03 PM.

Absent: Geraldine Pacheco

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

Marie-Louise Kehoe voted present as she did not attend the May meeting.

Director's Report:

* As the fiscal year is ending, the staff is reconciling and reviewing the budget accounts. Some balance transfers may be needed.
* Meetings: Sheila attended the monthly department head meetings and the last Livable Dedham Steering Committee meeting until the fall.
* With over 180 attendees, the Over 90 Party was once again a huge success. Seniors are looking forward to the Annual VFW Picnic at the end of the month.
* Approximately 17 seniors enjoyed lunch and the show *Bye Bye Birdie* at the Norwood Theater. Based on the reviews, more theater programs will be offered.
* Newsletter: The June issue will have a tear-off sheet to subscribe to the newsletter. Those who subscribe will be deemed Friends and receive their newsletters in the mail. Free newsletters will be available at the senior housing facilities, libraries, Town Hall, and other public places. The July issue will include a"name that senior center" tear-off sheet. This is not a contest. It is a request for suggestions. There will also be an email option for responding.
* Some programs have gone on summer hiatus, but there are new events and trips each month. We are working toward offering a number of new events and classes when we move into the new center this fall.
* There is a meeting this month at Town Hall for certain invited stakeholders to get together and learn about future COA plans and to solicit ideas about programs and outreach to others for the opening of the senior center. Those invited to attend this first meeting include the COA Board, the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager and Assistant Manager, the FinCom, the Library Board and Director, the School Committee, Representative Paul McMurtry, and Senator Mike Rush. Similar focus groups led by our communications consultant will take place over the summer.
* The information gathered from the various meetings will be used to develop a communications/strategy plan for the opening of the senior center. A brochure will also be produced to be used at the opening of the facility.

HESSCO:

* Board training this month was on elder abuse. People should call HESSCO to report elder abuse through June 30th. After this date, they should call the statewide elder abuse agency in Shrewsbury,
* People with incomes above the poverty level may now use HESSCO services. Those with higher incomes will pay the full cost for services. This opens services to more people. However, the budgetary funding account needs to be clarified by the state.

New Business:

* A presentation on Elder Abuse at NewBridge may also be good for the new center.
* Volunteers are being sought to ride on a trolley in the Flag Day Parade.

Old Business:

* The contract with Dedham Health and Athletic Club is ending and needs to be reviewed and programs offered clarified. Information will be featured in several places in this month's newsletter.
* Diane told the Board there is exciting news coming soon for Livable Dedham.
* In the fall, Livable Dedham will focus on several areas: housing options, improving communication, senior center activities, walkability, transportation, volunteerism.
* Sheila asked the Board to continue thinking about new activities and programs they would like to see in the new Senior Center and to keep in mind there is space on the upper floors for activities.
* Sheila would like the Senior Center to be open during the same hours as the Town Hall. This would allow the COA to offer programs and activities on Wednesday evenings and to close at 1:00 PM on Fridays during the summer.
* After the initial focus group meets in June, other focus groups will be open to interested town groups and residents.

Motion made by Marie-Louise Kehoe, seconded by Sherri, to adjourn. So voted.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.