DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

January 19, 2017

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

Absent: Marie-Louise Kehoe

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM.

Public Discussion: Myrna Weiner discussed the HESSCO relocation to the new Senior Center and the termination of the BJ's program. Laura spoke to BJ's corporate office and if seniors call they may be able to help them obtain a membership. This was not a COA program. She also discussed the Wegman's policy of sending coupons digitally. She does not believe this is good for seniors. Things are happening technologically that are leaving seniors out of the loop.

Minutes: Diane made a motion, seconded by Geri, to accept the December minutes. It was so voted. Geri and Sandy voted present as they were not at the December meeting.

Directors Report:

* The regular van driver will return full time in February.
* The van purchase is still in process.
* January offerings: a new Strength and Stretch class, Gardening with Sara, manicurist, Antiques Road Show-like presentation, Simplified Lives, and Brightview Senior Living Options and Lunch.
* February offerings: Aroma Therapy, manicurist, Painting with Fran, Swing Fever Trio live band, Musical Bingo ComforCare by an at home care agency, and Consumer Assistance of Metro West.
* Tax preparation begins

HESSCO:

* HESSCO has increased their services.
* Discussion on the audit is continuing. There is now a financial person on staff.
* The Neponset Valley Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) is having a meeting in the Dedham Town Hall in January laying out a plan for 2017 that looks at transportation across towns. Dedham is planning on more direct routes to places from Parkway Court, O'Neil Drive, and Doggett Circle.
* $93,412 was spent on Dedham residents in November.
* Dedham senior Tim Kelleher was honored by HESSCO for his 15 years of volunteering for Meals on Wheels.

Old Business:

* Livable Dedham update: The Steering Committee is resuming their meetings. They will prioritize the information from the breakout groups and select the 3-5 areas they would like to work on.
* AARP may be asked for a Livable Dedham designation.
* Maureen discussed the role of technology in relieving the problem of senior isolation.
* The board discussed updating the list of services for seniors, including those provided by the town, schools, churches, and civic groups.

New Business:

* The Board of Selectmen accepted a $1000 donation for the COA It is in the gift account
* Russ toured the senior section of the Ames School renovation.
* The Town Clerk expressed his appreciation for the workers involved in the tax work program.
* People from out of town are welcome to use the senior center. Many Dedham people go to Norwood.

This was our last meeting with COA Director Laura Leventhal. She has been a valuable asset to Dedham's seniors and will be missed by all of us.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 PM.