DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

February 16, 2017

Present: Sheri Hannigan, Marie-Louise Kehoe, Geraldine Pacheco, Russ Poole, Diane Barry Preston, Maureen Teti, Sandra Tocman, HESSCO Representative Anne Heller, Interim COA Director Tami Allen

Absent: Chairman Leanne Jasset

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM by Vice Chairman Marie Louise Kehoe.

Public Discussion: Myrna Weiner attended the meeting to keep abreast of all the changes that are happening in Dedham pertaining to seniors. Tami thanked Myrna for all her help and assistance at Traditions.

Minutes: Russ made a motion, seconded by Sandy, to accept the January minutes. It was so voted. Mrs. Kehoe voted present as she was not at the meeting.

Directors Report:

* Update: The new van should be delivered by the end of next week.
* Continuing: AARP Tax Preparation February through April by appointment.
* Meetings attended: Crisis Intervention, William James College Interface Referral Service presentation of information about their helpline where people can consult with mental health professionals about resources and/or referrals.
* January/February Offerings: Antique Road Show, Consumer Assistance Office MetroWest presentation of current issues facing consumers, Valentine Cards for Seniors from the Dedham High National Honor Society students. Coordination of future programs with the National Honor Society may include music and singing.
* March Classes: Computer at Dedham High, K&L Ceramics, Gardening with Sara, Cornerstone Brain Healthy Cooking.
* March Services: Legal Clinic from MetroWest Legal Services, Options Counseling from HESSCO Elder Services, Nails by Lauren.
* March Entertainment*:* Annual St.Patrick's Day Luncheon at Traditions, Sweet Surprise sponsored by Charwell House, Swing Fever Trio.

HESSCO:

* Anne discussed a report from HESSCO's Jane Davis about a survey that was very positive about the quality of the food served by Meals on Wheels. 90% believe the program helps them to live independently. The board discussed possibly making the survey results available for Dedham residents.
* In December, Dedham received $92,854 in services. Home care services accounted for the largest portion of the funds.

Old Business:

* Livable Dedham update: The Steering Committee met and reviewed the feedback from the fall forum and decided to focus on two areas: First, walkability in Dedham that would connect people to services. Second, a forum on housing options.
* Russ reported that the property tax relief bill for seniors has once again failed, but it is once again being proposed.
* The projected date for the opening of the new Senior Center is mid-August.
* Russ no longer has to sign the COA payroll. Though no longer required, he believes it is good idea for a board member to continue doing this.

New Business:

* The interviews for a new director are taking place.
* Diane discussed the relationship and compatibility of the board and the director.
* Sheri reported Elder Affairs now allows elders with fewer ADL (Activities of Daily Living) needs to be eligible for services.
* A brief discussion took place about future activity needs, health programs, and speakers for the new Senior Center.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.