DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

January 21, 2016

Present: Sherri Hannigan, Marie Louise Kehoe, Geraldine Pacheco, Russ Poole, Diane Barry Preston, Maureen Teti, HESSCO Representative Ann Heller COA Director Laura Leventhal

Absent: Leanne Jasset, Sandra Tocman

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Marie-Louise Kehoe at 5:05 PM.

Open Discussion: None

Minutes: Geri made a motion, seconded by Diane, to accept the December minutes. It was so voted. Marie Louise Kehoe, voted present as she did not attend the December meeting.

Directors Report:

* The Police Department requested the members of the board complete the Community Survey.
* There was another large turnout for an annual BJ’s enrollment.
* January entertainment: Ragtime Banjo on the 19th and 50’s quiz show on the 26th.
* January presentation: Register of Deeds on the 12th.
* Upcoming: AARP Tax Prep begins February 2nd.
* February classes: Bulb Planting on the12th, 6 week Feldenkrais program beginning on the 22nd, Miniature Painting class on the 16th.
* Entertainment: Name that Tune February 9th.
* Presentations: Affordable Housing for Seniors informational session February 23rd.
* Northeastern Research is seeking volunteers to participate in a study to promote social support for older adults.. You must be at least 55 years of age, speak and read English, with a computer available. Call 617-373-4505.
* Manicurist February 26th is filled.

HESSCO:

* The auditors report for HESSCO is excellent.
* They are trying to increase salaries to be competitive with other agencies.

Guest Speaker: Jamie Gutner, the Director of the Needham Senior Center, conducted an extremely interesting and informative discussion of the snags and pitfalls when opening a new senior center.

* Take the time to breathe. Not everything will go according to plan. Though you are in the new center, there may still be work going on or glitches that need to be ironed out.
* People need to be made aware there will be a need to discontinue programs for a time as the move is made from one center to another.
* When the new center opens be prepared to give guided tours of the facility. People will be curious about the new center. Invite everyone in to see the space. Explain the multi-functionality of the rooms.
* Programs will be added as time goes on. The staff will be managing services and current programs on top of figuring out the logistics of the new space. It takes time to implement new programs. Take the time to see what you need.
* Though people may request certain programs be added, it is the staff of the center that will make the final decision on programs based on interest, best practices, and the health and wellness of seniors.
* Additional support staff would be an asset during the first year to assist with managing services, programs, and the space.
* Expect that the work involved with budgets, grant applications, and state reporting will increase greatly as more people use the center and its services.

Old Business/New Business: None

Motion made by Geri, seconded by Sherri, to adjourn. So voted.

Meeting adjourned 6:25 PM.