DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

February 18, 2016

Present: Leanne Jasset, Marie Louise Kehoe, Geraldine Pacheco, Russ Poole, Diane Barry Preston, Maureen Teti, COA Director Laura Leventhal

Absent: Sherri Hannigan, Sandra Tocman, HESSCO Representative Ann Heller

Meeting called to order at 5:10 PM.

Open Discussion: None

Minutes: Russ made a motion, seconded by Diane, to accept the January minutes. It was so voted. Leanne Jasset voted present, as she did not attend the January meeting.

Directors Report: February Activities

* Seniors who wish to use the AARP Tax Prep service must call for an appointment. This is a very popular program.
* Classes: Bulb Planting, 6 week Feldenkrais program, Miniature Painting.
* Entertainment: Name that Tune.
* Presentations: Affordable Housing for Seniors informational session.
* 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.
* Services: Manicurist appointments are very popular.

Directors Report: Upcoming March Activities

* Classes: Floral Design on the 11th
* Informational Presentations: TRIAD on the 4th, Legal Clinic on the 16th, Merrill Lynch Healthcare costs and Retirement on the 29th.
* Entertainment: Best of Times trip to see the Irish Singers on the 10th, Marcus the Singing Dog on the 15th, and Music Through the Decades on the 22nd.
* Services: Manicurist on the 15th and 25th.

HESSCO:

* March 3rd HESSCO will conduct a medical forum at the town hall.

GUEST SPEAKER: Roberta Lynch, Director, Medfield Council on Aging, spoke about the programs offered at the center. She said that her best advice is to invite people to share ideas for the spaces in the center and remember you will have to adjust things as you go along.

* The Medfield Center runs under the “umbrella” that assistance programs are very necessary, as are programs that have a social component.
* It was noted that adult children who often do not live in the area are frequently calling the center with questions about programs for their parents.
* Transportation with adequate staffing is vital.
* Flexible scheduling allows the staff to conduct evening and Saturday programs.
* Social events include barbecues, breakfasts, and dances.
* Evening programs such as planning for retirement are held to attract younger seniors.
* Exercise classes are very popular.
* A caregiver support group and a respite care program are offered.
* Appointments with a hair stylist are available at the center.

Valuable discussions with the directors from two area senior centers have now spoken to the COA Board about making the move to a new facility and programs.

Old Business/New Business:

* The Livable Dedham Needs Assessment is ready. It is hoped it will be mailed to the 8700 Dedham residents over the age of 55. The group is requesting assistance from the Friends of the COA with the mailing costs.
* The Livable Dedham Forum will take place on April 4th at the Endicott Estate at 7:00 PM.

Motion made by Mrs. Kehoe, seconded by Russ, to adjourn. So voted.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 PM.