DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2017

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

Meeting called to order at 5:00 PM.

Absent: Parks and Recreation Representative Charles (Chuck) Dello Iacono

Public Discussion: None

Minutes: Sandy made a motion, seconded by Russ, to accept the October minutes. So voted. Marie-Louise Kehoe, voted present as she did not attend the October meeting.

Director's Report:

* Now that we are in budget season, the goal is to build staff and programs.
* Entertainment: The Troubador's Show and a Holiday Party took place at the Endicott Estate.
* Events: This year we began a new tradition with a Veterans Day Breakfast at the VFW. Approximately 50 veterans and guests attended. We hope to grow this event as it is important to thank those who have served our country. We were also pleased to participate in the Tribute to Commissioner Francis O'Brien at the American Legion where the tree and plaque in his honor were officially presented.
* Staff: Two new van drivers have been hired and trained. Both have worked out well. However, Sheila will continue to interview drivers as the two drivers are restricted on many days due to their schedules driving school buses.
* Senior Center Updates: The most recent estimate for the opening of the new center is March or April. We have struggled with several issues in the current center: There is no custodial help to keep the center clean. There is limited space for privacy and some activities. There were issues with summer cooling and now issues with no permanent heat. Space heaters could not be used because of inadequate circuits. Finally, with the assistance of the Fire Chief and Building Inspector, we have industrial heaters.
* Friends: The Blue Bunny/Mocha Java store is designating a percentage of the purchases made on November 20th to the Friends. It will continue into a special shopping evening with refreshments being served.
* Sheila would like a consensus from the Board on what is the exact population we serve. We state we serve anyone over age 60, but the newsletter and website statements also include disabled people of all ages. In order to serve disabled people of any age, we would more than likely have to make adjustments in programming and possibly in how we provide transportation. The Board requested some information from other senior centers and the Committee on Disabilities.

HESSCO

* HESSCO had a training presentation on Senior Care Options (SCO) The goal of the program conducted through Mass Health is to keep seniors 65 or older or who are enrolled in Mass Health in their homes A health team coordinates home care and services and appears to be successful in keeping seniors in their homes. However, passive disenrollment by the state is moving people into managed care programs
* Anne is on the nominating committee for a community professional who will serve on the board. Anne suggested Sandy would be a good fit for the position because of her background in elder agencies. Mrs Kehoe made a motion nominating Sandy for the position, seconded by Sherri. So voted. Anne will submit Sandy's name to the committee at HESSCO.

New Business:

* Town Meeting recently voted for the formation of a Human Rights Committee. Russ asked to be the COA's representative. Mrs. Kehoe made the motion to appoint Russ as our representative to the Human Rights Committee, seconded by Sandy. It was so voted.
* Leanne requested that either the Town administrator or the Assistant Town Administrator attend our next meeting to discuss why the opening of the new center is continually being delayed.

Old Business:

* Maureen commented on the informative video, Technology in the Home, on the Livable Dedham Facebook page.
* The Livable Dedham website is an excellent source for information. There are tabs for each of the domains and additional videos will be added.
* The Livable Dedham focus groups had excellent conversations around the Livable Dedham topics. UMASS will be pulling together all of the data. Diane will send board members the draft to review and for comments.
* On December 11th a video will be shown at the library focusing on how Dedham is changing and what should we do to prepare for these changes.
* An Eagle Scout has volunteered to count steps from the new center to places like CVS and other walkable destinations. The walking Maps will be ready in the spring and will be a valuable resource when we move into the new center. Walking groups are among the programs for seniors and others who want to get in their daily steps!
* The poinsettias program for shut-ins and those over 90 still continues thanks to the efforts of Representative Paul McMurtry, Francis O'Brien, and Russ Poole. Russ requested a list of shut-ins from the COA.
* Similar to a Giving Tree, there is a tree with mittens in the center for people to take to purchase something for seniors in need.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 PM.