DEDHAM COUNCIL ON AGING

Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2018

Present: 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 by Vice Chairman Marie-Louise Kehoe at 5:04 PM.

Absent: Chairman Leanne Jasset, Sherri Hannigan, Parks and Recreation Representative Charles (Chuck) Dello Iacono

Public Discussion: None

Minutes: Motion made by Diane, seconded by Sandy, to accept the December minutes. So voted.

Director's Report:

* Happy New Year -*The Year of the New Dedham Senior Center.* Either the Town Administrator Jim Kern or the Assistant Town Administrator Nancy Baker will be at our next meeting to discuss the progress being made on the new center.
* The Board reviewed an impressive and varied list of classes and activities and the cost for participation in each. We have now begun to charge $1.50 for fitness classes. For those who cannot afford to participate because of the fees, we have a waiver policy in place.
* Many of the entertainment and special event programs have been successful and we are working to keep a busy set of options available for seniors.
* Budget discussions have begun and I have received permission to make some increases in line items that will support expanded programs since the new center will have approximately 7 times more programming space. I have also requested an additional full time staff member.
* We are requesting information from 15 towns similar to Dedham to compare COA budget lines. We are hoping through this benchmarking process, we will find the Dedham COA merits additional funding.
* Representative Paul McMurtry has requested $100,000 for the new center.
* We expect to improve and expand the use of our transportation vehicles as well as coordinate more with the town bus service. We have also requested a new 26 passenger bus through the capital budget with an approximate cost of $65,000.
* There will be a meeting with Representative Paul McMurtry to revisit the venue for the Over 90s Luncheon.
* Our heat and related systems in the center are currently stable after another period of instability.
* There needs to be more discussion about reactivating the Friends. An active involved group is an important and integral part of the town's senior programs.
* A motion was made by Diane, seconded by Sandy, to accept the Director's Report. So voted.

HESSCO

* Anne did not attend the monthly meeting.
* The Executive Director of Mass Home Care has retired. He was a long term advocate for home care and has yet to be replaced.
* Sandy was appointed to the HESSCO Board in the professional category. The COA Board extended its congratulations

New Business:

* Because several items that may be considered New Business were covered and discussed in the Director's Report, there were no items recorded in this portion of the meeting.

Old Business:

* Livable Dedham's five focus groups have ended and each action team is culling recommendations and categorizing them so as to be incorporated into at the strategic plan as to what can be done now, what can be put off short term, and what are the long term items. The Housing Action Team is looking toward a housing forum in May. The focus will be on high density senior housing in Dedham.
* Livable Dedham received a small grant from the Mass Cultural Council for a photos of healthy aging.
* On February 7th at 7:00 PM there will be a TED Talk at the main library about finding meaning in the second half of your life. All are welcome.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:10 PM.