

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ABINGTON BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COUNCIL ON AGING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Abington Council on Aging was held on Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. In attendance were Chairperson George Whiting, COA Director Mary Beth Lawton, and members Karen DiLorenzo, Joe Iacobucci, Marie Brown, Betty Slinger, Jack Libby and Recording Secretary Maureen Wall. Chairman Whiting opened the meeting. At the outset Director Lawton distributed copies of the Director's Report with job description attached thereto. Mary Beth noted the new format in the Director's Report and stated that she will be using this format in the future for the monthly reports. The report will highlight the topics of interest that will then be elaborated on and discussed at the meeting. Mary Beth has spoken with Phil Warren regarding the revision of the existing job description of the COA Director. She asked members to comment on and report back to her at the next meeting. In that way she can forward any changes or suggestions to Mr. Warren, who will have a new job description prepared.

Mary Beth expressed concern about the Meals on Wheels program. The program is already facing financial problems that could ultimately result in the loss of the entire meals program (which also includes Thursday's congregate lunch). She will keep the members apprised of the situation as time goes on. Mary Beth is also exploring means to solicit donations or seek some sort of subsidizing to keep this program afloat.

Discussion ensued regarding the COA budget for FY 2010. Mary Beth stated that in December she presented a level funded budget to Mr. Warren for \$82,000 yr., \$10,000 of which is expenses and the remainder is salary. She has since refigured this budget so that it allows for the position of Director to be made full time. This will have to be reviewed and presented to the Finance Committee for their recommendation. In the meantime Mary Beth is seeking to obtain a SIGMA grant which has been increased this year. This would enable her to add another member to the COA staff, a part-time position for an individual who could multi-task in all areas of job responsibilities in the office.

Mary Beth explained that she has spoken with Diane Keith regarding a change in the Friends monthly meetings, perhaps to a different day or time. She feels strongly that since these are two different types of entities, the COA Board being a public, structured organization and the Friends being a fundraising

organization, that the same people should not be in both groups. It appears that there is ongoing conflict with respect to this issue. Ms. Lawton has verified with Emmett Schmarsow, Program Manager for Councils on Aging and Senior Centers, that members of the Board of Directors of the Council on Aging should not be members of a Friends' organization. After lengthy discussion of viewpoints and advantages vs. disadvantages, it was felt that for the time being things would remain as is. Both groups have to be aware of proper communication in an effort to maintain the purpose and objectives of both organizations, i.e., the welfare and needs of the seniors in the town of Abington.

Other topics mentioned were:

---The new software "My Senior Center": It has not yet been set up and working and Mary Beth noted that Mr. Warren will be hiring an IT person to get this on track.

---Ann Reilly has made a donation from the House Tour Committee of \$4,500 to be used for Senior Center needs.

---George Whiting has reported that Andy Burbine will contact Tierney Sound Systems regarding obtaining the warranty and instruction book.

---Mary Beth reported that she has had commitments made for the rental of the senior center in the near future..

---Betty Slinger suggested that a writing group be launched at the center. A topic of interest might be personal perspectives on the changes in the town of Abington through the years. She will work toward this endeavor.

---For the time being there will be no van fee for participants riding to either the Tuesday or Thursday luncheons. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

Finally, Karen made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2008 board minutes as presented, Joe seconded and all were in favor. The vote was unanimous.

The next meeting of the Board will be held on Wednesday, February 18th at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen A. Wall
Recording Secretary*