

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ABINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Abington Council on Aging was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 9:00 at the Senior Center. In attendance were Chairperson George Whiting, COA Director Mary Beth Lawton, and members Jack Libby, Joe Iacobucci, Betty Slinger, Marie Brown, Karen DiLorenzo, David Klein and Maureen Wall. Chairperson Whiting opened the meeting. At the outset, Director Lawton addressed the question of accepting the minutes of the January 21 meeting which caused concern at the February board meeting, Mary Beth stated that she read MGL, especially the Open Meeting law section, as it relates to going into executive session as well as it relates to deleting something from minutes of a meeting. Basically the law states that meeting minutes can be altered as long as they have not been voted on and approved. A vote could be made to make any changes or deletions. Mary Beth reported that she also verified this with Town Manager Phil Warren. Subsequently Karen made a motion to delete the portion of the January 2009 Board of Directors minutes that was in question. Betty Slinger seconded and all were in favor. Mr. Whiting asked for comments on the February 18, 2009 minutes. Betty Slinger asked for the insertion of the word "regret" be added to the paragraph referring to Bill Kendall's resignation from the board. Jack Libby made a motion to make the necessary change to the February minutes, Betty Slinger seconded and all were in favor. Maureen will make the necessary changes and bring the revised minutes to the April board meeting for approval.

Director Lawton distributed a sheet outlining expenses to date from the donation the center received from the Abington House Tour. (copy attached) The balance of \$513.00 will be put towards purchasing a DVD for the auditorium.

Mary Beth commented on the following items outlined in her Director's Report: ---Work in progress at Senior Center: the room used for taxes, fuel assistance and Dr. Klefeker has been redone; An Arts & Crafts room is in place; John Najarian continues to work on fixing all insulation in the entire building; the walls in the cribbage room are being repaired and painted; a projector and screen have been purchased. Jason Libby will work with Mary Beth to get this in motion, so that a movie day can be added to the activities. Mary Beth is hoping to have movies and popcorn on Wednesdays; bingo will be off to a start on Monday, April 27th; My Senior Center software should be installed and ready for April 1st.

Director Lawton expressed her concern once again about the Meals on Wheels and congregate lunch programs. There is a very strong possibility that all of the

food services in Abington could be privatized. She is working closely with School Supt. Peter Schafer in this regard.

The COA 2010 budget was discussed. Mary Beth explained that the Furlough Program has been implemented in Abington. It mandates that every town employee must take one week of unpaid vacation during a 15-week period that ends on June 30, or the end of the fiscal year. Further, depending on the outcome of the vote at town meeting regarding the usual 3% COLA increase, a mandated one and a half week unpaid vacation could be implemented for the next fiscal year. .

Finally, Ms. Lawton discussed the Senior Tax Rebate program. A new volunteer, John Freese, has been working out quite well, especially assisting John Najarian with the insulation work. Mary Beth will attempt to have John Freese come on board under the federal program, Citizens for Citizens.

In closing, Mary Beth mentioned that she has had 4 bookings for rental of the center to date. In addition, Reeds Collaborative in Rockland has been in touch and would like to park about 10 vans in the parking lot at the center. She feels all these things will generate income to offset budget reductions. Mary Beth noted that the money from the air base should be expected by March 31 at the latest.

Mr. Whiting suggested we meet next month (April 15th) at 8:30 a.m. in an attempt to finish with COA Board issues prior to Friends' meeting at 10:00. The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Maureen A. Wall
Recording Secretary*