

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ABINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

*A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Abington Council on Aging was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. In attendance were Chairperson George Whiting, Co-Chairperson Marie Brown and Jack Libby, Betty Slinger, Joe Iacobucci, Betty Keefe, Ann Welch, David Klein, Larry Keough and Recording Secretary Maureen Wall. Chairperson Whiting opened the meeting and welcomed a guest, Arlene Spaulding, to the meeting. Mr. Whiting opened discussion on the announcement that the COA Director, Mary Beth Lawton, would be vacating her position. A great deal of time was spent considering the steps that should be taken in order to fill the vacancy and how to handle business in the interim. The board referred to a discussion at the Selectmen's Meeting on Sept. 14 wherein the idea of regionalizing the senior centers in the area was brought before the board. There was also speculation on comments made at the Selectmen's meeting of a hiring freeze, due to a million dollar deficit that the town now faces.*

*Many ideas and suggestions were exchanged. For the meantime it was felt that Mr. Whiting, Marie and David should meet immediately with Dori Jamieson, Asst. Town Manager, to discuss what action should be taken at this time. The COA Board would like to take a more active role in the selection process of a new director. Subsequently David made a motion that the Board ask the Asst. Town Manager if it can proceed with the process of hiring a new Director and that the Board meet with the interim Town Manager to discuss the whole process. Jack Libby seconded and all were in favor. It was decided that Chairperson Whiting, Vice Chair Brown and David Klein would make an appointment to confer with Dori Jamieson to discuss what action should be taken at this time. They will also voice the Board's concern regarding issues that Ms. Lawton should finish off and share information with the Board before the date she actually leaves her employment in Abington.*

*Mr. Whiting asked for comments on the August meeting. Betty Slinger felt a change should be made to the wording related to the 50" TV that will be installed at the center through a program with "My Senior Center" representatives. A contract was supposedly approved by Ms. Lawton and Town Manager Phil Warren. Betty Slinger suggested that the minutes should reflect the strong objection by the Board of Directors to this action and the fact that Ms. Lawton dismissed the Board's objection and said that it was "not open for discussion". Jack made a motion that the minutes be amended to alter the section that recounts the discussion at the August meeting. Larry seconded and all were in favor. Maureen will make the necessary changes for the Board's review at the next meeting.*

*Chairperson Whiting read a letter which Marie Brown, on behalf of the COA Board, sent to the Tuesday luncheon volunteers thanking them for all their efforts and time in putting on the Tuesday luncheons. These luncheons have been extremely successful. Marie recognized Betty Slinger for composing this*

*letter. Mr. Whiting had to leave the meeting at this time (10:00) and turned the floor over to Vice Chair Brown.*

*The Taste of Abington was discussed. Posters are ready as well as tickets, all of which were prepared by Lisa Iacobucci. Things in general are moving along very well. More details will be discussed at the Friends meeting immediately following.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.*

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Maureen A. Wall, Recording Secretary*

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