

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ABINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Abington Council on Aging was held on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 at 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. In attendance were Chairperson George Whiting, Interim COA Directors Suzanne Djusberg and David Klein, and members Betty Slinger, Larry Keough, Ann Welch, Betty Keefe, Karen DiLorenzo, and Recording Secretary Maureen Wall. Chairperson Whiting opened the meeting and asked for comments re the September meeting minutes. Larry Keough made a motion to accept the minutes of the Sept. 16 and Sept. 23 meeting as presented; Betty Slinger seconded and all were in favor.

David Klein reported that after four weeks on the job he and Suzanne had put together a Director's Report, which he presented to the Board (copy attached) and briefly commented on the issues therein. e.g., that there was a Flu Clinic held October 5th; that the Senior Center hosted one of the Selectmen's meetings in October; that the Registry of Motor Vehicles presented a program on safe driving in October; that David and Suzanne had attended a Rotary meeting to understand what that organization does to help seniors in need; that the Taste of Abington held in October was a tremendous success; that Arrowhead is working on getting the memorials ready in honor of Bob Donlan (memorial benches) and Kate Kelly (plum tree). David informed the board that he and Suzanne attended the Fuel Assistance informational program and explained how our office volunteers (Fred Robertson, Ellie Diersch, Shirley McIver and Bill Kendall) rotate schedules to accommodate the numerous requests for Abington seniors seeking assistance.

David and Suzanne commented on the wonderfully successful Taste of Abington. Bill Kendall, as Asst. Treasurer of the Friends, reported that the net profit from this event was \$2310.99. More discussion on this will follow at the Friends meeting which takes place immediately after the Board meeting.

The Interim Directors and the board members discussed the financial problems the COA now faces with more town wide budget cuts. Asst. Town Manager Dori Jamieson has now recommended that the entire COA budget be eliminated in an effort to ease the town's budget shortfall. This information was very unsettling to the board, especially in light of the fact that Ms. Jamieson had discussed the COA budget in late September (immediately following the former Director's departure). At that time the Asst. Town Manager assured the Board of Directors that although the revolving account which runs the Center had already been depleted and the COA was facing a \$1,000 deficit, that funding was in place for the COA Director position as well as a balance in the budgeted account for supply expenses. An intense discussion followed on where the COA and the Senior Center go from here if this recommendation of a 100% cut is in fact approved at Town Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen A. Wall

Recording Secretary