

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ABINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Abington Council on Aging was held on Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at 9:00 at the Senior Center. In attendance were Chairperson George Whiting, Vice Chair Marie Brown, Interim COA Directors David Klein and Suzanne Djusberg and members Joe Iacobucci, Karen DiLorenzo, Betty Slinger, Bill Kendall, Jack Libby, Betty Keefe and Recording Secretary Maureen Wall. Chairperson Whiting opened the meeting and asked for comments regarding the December 16, 2009 minutes. Bill Kendall questioned whether letters were sent to the applicants interested in the Coa position as suggested at December's meeting. Mr. Whiting replied that he would get to sending those letters out. It was further felt that Maureen would keep all such applications with the COA Board of Directors files. Subsequently Betty Slinger made a motion to accept the December 16, 2009 minutes as presented, Bill Kendall seconded and all were in favor.

*Chairperson Whiting solicited comments regarding the January Director's Report which summarizes activities, meetings, networking information (copy attached). Discussion ensued on budget review. David explained that Tom Corbett and Jerry Corcoran of the Board of Selectmen indicated to him that they would be happy to meet with the board, Tom Corbett being the Selectmen liaison to the Council. David explained that he feels the B of S representative should meet with the COA staff first to find out firsthand what actually goes on behind the scenes at the COA office and senior center. Betty Slinger --****-firsthand the concerns and issues that the Board and senior center now face. It is imperative that the Selectmen and Fin Com understand the impact behind the scenes to ensure that a budget be in place for the COA prior to town meeting. David and Suzanne explained the town has already determined that there will be level funded budgets for the next fiscal year and that they have been asked to put together a restorative budget as well. In light of all the budgetary concerns it was decided that a subcommittee of 2 or 3 members should be formed to review budget issues until the actual COA budget is put in to the town. Bill made a motion to form a subcommittee, called the Fin Com Subcommittee, to discuss and review budgetary issues until the actual budget is submitted, Karen seconded and all were in favor. The members who volunteered were Betty Slinger, Bill Kendall and Betty Keefe as well as one of the Interim Directors.*

David commented specifically on website developers and stated that they are waiting for a third quote for website services. David and Suzanne indicated that the senior center website should be completely separate and under our control for ease in changing data, etc.

Selectman Chris Aiello stopped by during the morning meeting and questions were directed to him regarding finances and the situation the COA/Senior Center faces. Mr. Aiello stated that more serious thought should go into the concept of regionalizing. A lengthy discussion followed. The Board/Friends are not in favor of regionalizing; All feel that the COA is a core department that services seniors and

should be budgeted as a functioning town department as in the past. Further, inasmuch as the Senior Center is a town owned building there should have been a budget in place for the operation of the center. It was generally felt that the B of S should come up with some other ways to generate revenue through the town budget.

David informed the board that one of the two van drivers will be leaving soon due to health problems. David LeCouture will stand ready to help whoever is hired to replace him. The job will be posted soon.

Finally, before closing David Klein announced that he received a job offer and has accepted a position in Westwood starting Feb. 1st. David said he would like to continue to assist Suzanne and the board. This is great news for David and bittersweet for the Council and Senior Center. Everyone wished David well in this new endeavor.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen A. Wall

Recording Secretary

**Abington Council on Aging
Director's Report
January 20, 2010**

Activities, Meetings, Networking

- Inter-Department: Suzanne & David met with Felicia Moschella, the Asst. Superintendent and business manager from the School Department. We discussed how the Thursday lunch program works and agreed to look for ways to work together whenever possible. Suzanne suggested that the schools might want to consider taking advantage of the Citizens for Citizens program to hire a senior that is subsidized by CFC.
- Website Development: David & Suzanne met with Tom Rose who is a website developer that was referred to us by Tony Sulmonte, the town accountant. Mr. Sulmonte pointed out that if we are going to contract for services to develop a website it is standard practice to get three quotes. So far we have met with Tom and Reiko Beach and with Mr. Rose. Mr. Rose put together the Abington Library's website. Also, at the town accountant's suggestion we will contact the school system to speak with their web developer, Diane Baxter.
- Building Technology (WiFi): A meeting was held regarding the addition of equipment to give the Senior Center "WiFi" capability so that people that wish to would be able to access the Internet using a laptop or other computer without connecting through FIOS. The cost of this project would range from \$300 to \$900. The Directors feel that this might be a good thing for the Senior Center at some point, but that it's not crucial at the moment and given the current financial situation, should be tabled for now.
- More Building Technology (My Senior Center Program): My Senior Center Update: The data collection and data entry phases of this project are ongoing but up to this point have been fairly successful. The next phase will be to put the computer and touch screen back out in the hall so that it can begin to be used by those entering the Center.
- Senior Center/COA Promotion: Suzanne & David met with Dan Brielman, the chairman of the SAGE program (Save Abington Green...) about a piece that he filmed during the Taste of Abington. He wanted to learn more about the Senior Center and get some additional filmed material. He would also like to complete the piece by interviewing several seniors that use the center.

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Events & Speakers:

- Senior Center Usage: The Abington Board of Health and the local VNA sponsored an H1N1 flu clinic for all Abington residents on Tuesday evening January 19th from 5PM to 8PM. Suzanne booked several more rental dates for the Center for March and April. On January 27th, there will be a presentation from COPE regarding their drug intervention program.

Finances:

- Town Government: At the Selectmen's meeting on January 11th the town accepted the establishment of a new gift account for the COA to support donations specifically meant for the Van and transportation services. A sub-committee of the Abington Elderly, chaired by Ann Reilly, will be sponsoring a fundraising campaign for van/transportation related expenses, including salaries, fuel, phone service and other ad hoc items. As noted previously, the Abington Elderly will be fixing up one of the rooms at the Senior Center as an office.
- More Town Government: The directors met with Barbara Christoforo, the liaison to the COA from the town's Finance Committee (FinCom) as a precursor to a second meeting with FinCom where we've been invited to give a more in depth presentation about the activities and finances of the COA and Senior Center. That meeting is scheduled for February 3rd.
- Expenses: Salaries, heat, and electricity continue to be supported by the Friends of Abington Seniors (FOAS) at this time. Small donations have come in from the Cribbage players and occasionally other donors. This has helped cover the cost of some smaller bills such as office supplies. In December the FOAS donated \$4,000 towards salaries and \$1,000 towards utilities. We are hoping to have monthly Accounting reports through December to review, if available from the town at the time of this meeting.

Monthly Stats:

December:	Abington Van Rides:	117
	Bat Van Rides:	25
	Total Van Rides	142