

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ABINGTON COUNCIL ON AGING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2010

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Abington Council on Aging was held on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 8:30 a.m. at the Senior Center. In attendance were Interim COA Director David Klein, Chairman George Whiting, Vice Chair Marie Brown and members Jack Libby, Ann Welch, Betty Slinger, Larry Keough, Betty Keefe, Karen DiLorenzo, Bill Kendall and Recording Secretary Maureen Wall. Suzanne Djusberg and Joe Iacobucci were not in attendance. Chairman Whiting opened and asked for comments on the March and April board minutes. Larry Keough made a motion to accept the minutes of the March, 2010 board meeting as presented, Karen seconded. All were in favor. Larry further made a motion to accept the April 2010 minutes as presented, Betty Keefe seconded. All were in favor.

In anticipation of the June meeting wherein officers will be nominated, George appointed three members to a nominating committee to put together a slate. That committee includes Betty Slinger, Larry Keough and Ann Welch. It was suggested that the committee also solicit a member of the community to serve as an associate member of the Board of Directors.

David referred the board to the May Director's Report (copy of which is attached). The report covers stats such as usage of the van, the senior center, promotions at the center, building maintenance, website update, staff education and development, donations, expenses, town government updates. One comment was made regarding the work that was done in preparation for the memorial dedication held on May 1st. Betty Slinger felt that the efforts and help of John Burnett of Arrowwood as well as Rick Franey should also be acknowledged. David will see that this will be noted in the upcoming newsletter. There were no other comments re the report.

Chairman Whiting then welcomed Mr. John D'Agostino, our new Town Manager, who came to meet the board and listen to their concerns. At the outset Mr. D'Agostino stated he plans to have a "coffee hour" with seniors in the town on a regular basis. Mr. D'Agostino explained his vision for the COA is to expand the services and resources so that the Senior Center would be utilized to the fullest extent. He emphasized several times that it is the responsibility of the town to keep the Senior Center in operation. At the end of the fiscal year, the FOAS will no longer pay the expenses for the utilities and salary as it has for the past number of months. In that regard, Bill Kendall asked for an accounting of the funds which the Friends have expended since the gift account was established for the payment of salaries and utilities. Mr. D'Agostino

replied that the FOAS is indeed entitled to such an accounting. He also mentioned that monies from the project at the Naval Air Station should be forthcoming.

By motion made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen A. Wall, Recording Secretary

Abington Council on Aging
Director's Report
May 19, 2010

Monthly Stats for April, 2010

- **Transportation** - Abington Van rides: 136
 BAT Van Rides: 21
 Total Van Rides: 157
- **Outreach Contacts:** 61 "Client" Contacts in March
 *33 new and 28 repeat clients
 *27 for SHINE
 *3 Home visits

Norma pointed out that this does not include questions that she answers in the hallway, at lunch, or at Church coffee hour. Norma also attended a monthly SHINE meeting and a bi-monthly Outreach workers meeting (both at the Middleboro COA).

- **Utilization (My Senior Center Stats)** – Remember this is only accurate to the extent that people use the program and sign in:
 *April - Total Seniors Served: 750 (138 unduplicated)
 *Overall – Seniors Served (1/26 to 5/12/10): 2,710 (194 unduplicated)

Event Statistics

Community Education	12
Community Services	83
Fitness/Exercise	25
Information Sharing	20
Meetings	38
Recreation	3
Social Event	<u>568</u>
Total Event Signins	749

- **Senior Center Promotion:** Activity at the Senior Center continues to pick up on nights and weekends. A new musical group, a marching band called "BandMasters" will be renting on Saturdays intermittently through July 3rd. In addition the Center has hosted the following recent events:

1. Saturday, 4/24 Clean-up Day (30 Volunteers)
2. Saturday, 5/1 Memorial Dedications (about 100)
3. Sunday, 5/2 1st Birthday Party
4. Thursday, 5/6 Town "Public Forum" – Selectmen
5. Friday, 5/14 Ctr School Kids Luau fundraiser

- **Inter-Department:** A lot of folks helped out to make sure that the memorial dedication on May 1st went well. From a town perspective, we should not forget that it was the Highway department that came two days in a row to fix the damaged concrete area back by Kate's tree and also to fill in and level out dirt at the back of the parking lot, which had been a mess due to the weather and a good deal of car and truck parking at the rear of the building. Consideration has been given to paving that area over at some point. We are also grateful to the Fire Department who sent personnel over the Center to provide CPR and Defibrillator training to staff and volunteers in April.

- **Building Maintenance** – Speaking of the Fire Department, the deputy chief did an inspection recently and let us know that the fire alarm mechanism in the kitchen was broken and needed to be fixed immediately or else we'd have to close down. Suzanne called John Mulveyhill of Al-Comm Enterprises, who handles the alarm system for many of the town buildings. He came over that same night to meet with both Suzanne and David. He inspected the mechanism and then returned the next day with the proper parts to do the repair. The Deputy Fire Chief also let us know that the smoke alarms in the attic, which have been going off and causing false alarms, should be replaced as soon as possible with heat detector alarms, which he said would be more appropriate for the upstairs space. We believe that we have 8 or 9 of them spread out over the upstairs and plan to replace them a couple at a time, which the Chief said would be acceptable.

- **Website Development:** The website has been brought live, which means that you can now access it by going to: www.abingtonseniorcenter.com. We're not trumpeting it just yet as we work out the kinks and await further training from TRB Designs. However, if you check it out from day to day there are small changes taking place, for example photos were just added from the May 1st memorial dedication for Kate Kelley, Bob Donlan, Martha Ware, and Mary Cooke. Remember, it's your ideas and information that will make the site special.

- **Staff Education & Development:**
 - 1) Suzanne has completed a majority of the SHINE certification training program classes (also held in Middleboro).

 - 2) David & Suzanne attended a "Formula Grant" training session in April at the Natick COA. This was a 2 ½ hour discussion led by Emmett Schmarzzow who is the Program Director for the EOEA, the Executive Office of Elder Affairs for the Commonwealth.

- **New Services** – It looks like nobody, at least up to this point, has taken advantage of the complementary Eye Screening offered at the Center in April and May from Nielson Eye Center in Quincy. Let us know if there is any other service that you would like to see offered at the Center.
- **Town Government:** Nothing much happening....okay there was that Town Meeting event on May 10th and before that the Town Election on April 24th, where Mike Franey was elected as a new Selectmen to take Richard Cunningham's spot (thank you for your service Rich!) and the three debt/capital exclusion items were approved. And in between the Selectmen held a Public Forum at the Senior Center where our new Town Manager, John D'Agostino gave his first public assessment of the town's situation. At the Forum it was announced that the COA would be funded at a level of \$20,000 for fiscal 2011. This amount was part of funds that were originally allocated towards town computer and phone system upgrades.

At Town Meeting, the town voted to accept the Finance Committees recommendation for funding of an additional \$62,000 for the COA and the Senior Center to bring total funding for fiscal 2011 up to \$82,000. Although this is less than the \$100,000 figure that had been requested in the combined Articles 29 and 30, it is still a great step forward coming from where we were after our funding was slashed last October.

The catch, of course, is that the COA had originally been zero funded in the 2011 planned budget. So, even though the Town Manager was able to add in a \$20,000 base level of funding to the 2011 budget, the additional amount of \$62,000, plus the amounts requested for other departments, puts the town in an override situation. On their meeting on May 17th, the Selectmen decided to put the override vote on the ballot in a menu format rather than make it one big override amount. They are aiming for a possible Override Vote date of Saturday, June 26th, but it could end up later. Whatever happens, we'll work to retain as many services as possible. Unfortunately, if the override does not pass, it is possible that many COA services will be severely restricted and some could be eliminated.

- **Donations:** In April the FOAS donated \$5,000 towards May salaries and \$1,500 towards utilities from March. We would like to sincerely thank the Friends for their continued support especially as we get towards the end of the 2010 fiscal year! Please note that the Salary donations have been funding the following month while the utility donations have been used to pay for the prior month's invoice.

- Expenses: Utilities - Thanks to last month's FOAS donation and the correction of an accounting error our Heat & Electricity Gift account is back to a very slight positive balance. At one point a few weeks ago National Grid threatened to turn off our electricity because they thought that we were not paying our bills. Following some helpful investigation by Suzanne and Norah over at the Town Accountant's office it turns out that National Grid cashed one of the checks (for \$656.97) issued by the town from our gift account in February but did not apply it to our account. Suzanne had to retrieve a copy of the paid check and fax it to them. There is another check that was issued to them on April 15th that as of May 14th was not cashed. David requested that that check be stopped and reissued.

On the good side, the trend of lower gas bills has continued. The heating bill was about \$1,220 in February, it went down to \$738 in March, and to \$513 in April. And in all three months our energy usage was lower then for the same period the year before (April was 30% less). During that same period, however electricity usage has gone up 10 to 20%. Our last National Grid electricity bill was for a relatively modest \$230, however, we recently found out that the town entered into some type of energy delivery understanding with a company called Glacial Energy and they billed the town about \$312 for delivery of energy to the Senior Center itself. The town will pass that cost along to us to pay the amount for the Senior Center. So, all told the energy cost for the building in April was about \$1,055.

- Salaries - The salary gift account should be okay until the first week of June. We'll obviously have a more accurate figure for you in June, but our estimate is that we will need less than the \$5,000 that the FOAS has been donating for the past several months. We may need only \$3,000 to \$4,000 to close out the fiscal year. One variable is that the Formula grant assets will be exhausted soon and we'll have to pick up the increased cost of the Outreach worker's salary for the last 3 to 4 weeks of the fiscal year.
- Revolving Acct. - As of March 26th the revolving account had a balance of \$1,056 (up from negative \$48.75) reported last month for February. That's an increase of about \$1,100. Rentals have been steady, if not spectacular.