

Lunenburg Council on Aging Minutes *Minutes Approved at 3/12/13 COA Meeting*
February 12, 2013

Present: Mary Lynn Conrad, (Chairperson), Pete Lincoln (Vice-Chairperson), Doreen Noble (Director), Fred Crellin, Jim Hays, Joyce Wass and Sue Doherty (Admin. Asst.)

Excused: Deb Seeley, Barbara Brown, Jane Doyle, & Sis Montuori

Guests:

Kerry Speidel (Town Manager), Stephen Raboin (Lunenburg Finance Committee), & Connie O'dea

Welcome

Mary Lynn Conrad (Chairperson) opened the meeting at 9:35AM, and introduced Ms. Speidel to the board.

Ms. Speidel spoke to the board regarding the FY14 COA budget. She began by saying that the Town is facing a deficit going into this year's budget. She had previously given the COA Director a "target" number to work with for the FY14 COA Budget which included the possible ideas of reopening on Fridays or adding more staff hours. She asked COA board members for their input on this matter so she can include it in her FY14 budget presentation to the Lunenburg Finance Committee.

The Director is currently retrieving statistics from the MySenior Center software to aide in the Town Manager's presentation.

Discussion:

Board members discussed different scenarios on how to extend the hours of the senior center by reopening on Fridays, staying open later in the evenings in the summer, or opening on Saturdays. Suggestions were made for new programs such as an evening Horse Shoe league with COA board members volunteering to run this program.

The Town Manager voiced concerns that the expense comes with keeping the building open for extended hours. It was determined that staying open later in the winter months was not feasible. This was attempted last year with the hopes of offering Outreach to the people who are still working, which did not receive as much participation as hoped for.

It was mentioned that when Representative Benson was last here she informed the board that there were no grant monies being given to any senior centers in the State. The Town Manager and some of the board members showed concern about reopening the center on a "short term" basis on Fridays, but other members felt that it would not be a problem, and that \$8k to reopen on Fridays is a small amount out of the Town's Budget.

Also discussed was how to get more people who are retired to volunteer at the Senior Center. Some thought that there is a new generation of retiring people who are willing to volunteer and that programs need to be more fun to attract people and to saturate the media with Eagle House events.

The Director mentioned that there is a "Dine Around" club which the Outreach Coordinator runs, after hours, at different restaurants, on her own time without compensation and that it has proven to be a very popular program.

COA Board member Jim Hays, who currently sits as an advisor on the Supporters of the Eagle House Inc. questioned the possibility of adding the office copy machine and the MySenior Center software maintenance contracts into the COA budget.

Ms. Speidel requested that the COA decide what it is they want to include in the budget and get back to her before her meeting with the Finance Committee.

The COA Board thanked the Town Manager for attending today's meeting.

Pete Lincoln requested that the COA Chairperson write an editorial to the Lunenburg Ledger on behalf of the board thanking the Police, Fire, and DPW departments on a job well done during the recent blizzard.

Minutes: Pete Lincoln mentioned that he believes that there was not a quorum at this meeting to make a motion on the January 2013 COA minutes. Although the COA board consists of 11 members, there has been no more than 9 members sitting on the board for the past couple of years.

The Administrative Assistant will check with the Town Clerk for clarification on this matter.

Pete Lincoln asked the Director questions concerning the January 2013 minutes in regards to the Soup & Sandwich program on Mondays and the generator issue. Ms. Noble replied that the Soup & Sandwich program is going well, although the Tuesday Hot Dog & Pizza menu is not as popular. There is no news on the possibility of purchasing a generator for the Eagle House.

Pete Lincoln motioned to approve the January 8, 2013 COA minutes. Joyce Wass seconded. On vote, motion carried, 5 in favor, 0 opposed.

Director's Report

All Meals on Wheels driver's quarterly stipends have been processed by the Director.

Chief Sullivan of the Lunenburg Fire Department informed the Director that he would like to utilize the Eagle House as a "warming station" if needed during the recent blizzard. Ms. Noble and Ms. Doherty remained "on call" over the weekend in case the building needed to be used for that purpose.

The food program at the Senior Center is going well although there are mixed results on the Tuesday offering of Hot Dogs & Pizza. Participants are also able to order a MOC Nutrition meal that day if they so choose.

There is an employee of the Eagle House who will be going out on an extended sick leave absence. Currently staff members are able to perform other duties within the center, but someone will need to be brought in for office coverage considering the length of the sick leave.

Old Business

1. Town Finance Committee Meeting: Ms. Noble stated that she was not sure when the COA will be called to the Lunenburg Finance Committee, but would like some members of the COA board to attend it with her when she is called.

2. 2014 Budget: Discussed earlier with the Town Manager

New Business

1. Regional COA Board Trainings: Ms. Noble informed the COA board that the Executive Office of Elder Affairs will be conducting COA Board Trainings for new board members in Natick and Webster. After discussing Board Training sessions, it was decided to conduct these "in house" with the Director and the Chairperson.

2. Sample Board Agreement: Ms. Noble distributed copies of "Council on Aging Services for Seniors" Board Agreement for board members to review for discussion at a later meeting.

Sub-Committee Report

Fred Crellin distributed copies of the 1/15/13 COA Finance Committee Meeting Minutes for board members to review to be voted on at the next COA meeting.

Correspondence

The Golden Living Center located in Fitchburg sent a flyer for posting advertising 99 Cent Breakfast to be held on March 26th at 7:30AM.

General Discussion

Mr. Lincoln suggested that the COA Director make the decision on whether or not to reopen on Fridays, provide more Outreach hours, or provide transportation on Fridays. Ms. Conrad & Mr. Crellin agreed with Mr. Lincoln's suggestion. A report will be compiled based upon statistics as to what the best option would be and distributed to the COA board at a later date.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 10:55AM.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Doherty, Administrative Assistant
Lunenburg Council on Aging*