

COUNCIL ON AGING  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
September 15, 2011

Present: John Bowen, John Carey, Ernest Blake, Rose Morace, Robert Petroff, Marybeth Bergeron, Margaret Jenkins, Diane Nadeau and Karen Michelman  
Excused: Eleanor Stolar, Pat Camerota, Saul Finestone, Rob Aseltine  
Absent: Joe Occhuitti

---

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM

Minutes from August meeting were accepted as amended. Under the section reporting on the Senior Tax Relief, the Motion should have read: May consider submitting an article for the Town Warrant at a future town meeting, not January Annual Meeting. Also John wished to clarify that he would like to see the Selectboard sponsor the warrant article, not the COA Board as suggested by Rob Aseltine.

Financial Report: Reviewed.

Selectboard Report: John Bowen wished to express his appreciation for Rob Aseltine's support throughout the Senior Tax Relief process.

Status Tax Relief Proposal: John Bowen asked for discussion on how to proceed and when to proceed with the proposal. Should it be at an Annual Meeting, Special Town Meeting? Should we notify Town Manager, Selectboard? A quick overview of the proposal was presented: The proposal would cause a .5% shift in property tax dollars to all other residents in town. Revenue neutral was a term used to describe the proposal. Approximately \$250,000 in property tax dollars. A suggestion was made that some talking points be written to the Board would have the facts available to them. John Bowen mentioned that Sudbury had devised such a tool and everyone on the Board should have this material already. John B met with Dave Bartlett, LCTV. He has agreed to film an interview with John in early October. John also discussed the importance of holding two community presentations to be held in late October and early November. One will be held at the Adult Center, the other at the Library possibly.

Director's Report:

**Project Updates**

Means Tested Senior Property Tax Relief:

COA Board Chair met with Selectboard Chair, Board of Assessors, & Finance Dept to discuss the proposed program. He plans to meet with Finance Committee. Phone Calls to Longmeadow residents to assess eligibility have been put on hold. An informational meeting will be planned for the public in October at the Adult Center and Community House.

Home Modification Fund: \$17,714 has been distributed to five families. Projects include: window replacement; Minor Home Repairs to doors, porches, roofs, insulation, handicapped accessibility, heating and cooling systems.

**Work Activities:**

Executive Office of Elder Affairs Formula Grant:

Year End Stats –finalized annual service and program figures for mandated State report.

Community Health Nurse: Working with Carol to target homebound residents who are in need of home vaccinations.

United Way Funding: Received \$2,400 grant to support the town’s nutrition program. Funding will be used to purchase food used in daily meal preparation.

Golden Cane: Working with family to have the cane returned to the town so we may honor a new recipient. Letter sent to family after many many unsuccessful emails.

Food Bank Inpection: The Nutrition Program and Pantry are members of the Western Mass Food Bank. We receive annual reviews. Met with staff from food bank to review or records, pantry procedures and kitchen operations. Inspection went very well. We are 100% in compliance.

MONEY for MAPLES: Mass Association of COAs has started a statewide fundraising campaign to raise money for communities impacted by the tornado. The Adult Center will be collecting funds to support their efforts.

Paper Shredding Collection: The Friends have been supporting this service for the past three months. Remains a popular service, so they will continue to support the collection program.

**Performance Measures:** Highlights: FY 2011

Number of Elders Served:	2,151 FY 11
	2,123 FY 10
PVTA Rides	3,945 FY 11
	5,155 FY 10
Congregate Meals	8,705 FY 11
	7,874 FY 10
Meals on Wheels	11,969 FY 11
	9,549 FY 10
Over 60 Federal Census	4,081 in 2010
	3,434 in 2000

Karen talked about the desperate need for MOWs drivers.... A suggestion was made to hire someone to alleviate the burden.

She also mentioned that there will be a warrant article at the upcoming Special Town Meeting to have the interest accrued from donation by Sally Malkasian to be placed back into the fund rather than the general fund.

FOLOCA – Friends Group Report:

Diane Nadeau reported that the Friends have a balance of approximately \$144,000. They will be coordinating their annual mailing in early December, Tag Sale in October. Please let her know if you have any suggestions for items to purchase for the Center.

Benefactors: No Report

GSSSI – No report

Legislative – No Report

Advocacy: John Bowen would like the committee to assist in getting residents to the October 20<sup>th</sup> Property Tax meeting.

No discussion on proposed committees.

Membership: All members need to be thinking about recruiting new members. John Bowen will contact Joe Occhuitti

New Business: It was suggested the a program be held to remind residents about emergency preparedness.

Nutrition Update: Kitchen volunteers and staff do a wonderful job. Blinds need to be cleaned.

Secretary – A volunteer abatement individual will be attending our meetings in the future to take notes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:35 am

Respectfully submitted: Karen Neiman Michelman

Next meeting, October 20<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM