

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting  
November 14, 2011

Attending: Dianne Sullivan, Linda Cohen, Sheila Nugent, Stanley Hodges, Sandra Budson, Mary Bowers, Gayle Thieme, Mary Dummer, Bill Murphy, Sister Alice McCourt

Absent: Eleanor Sullivan, Andrew Pernokas, Susan Kagan Lange, Joellen Toussaint, Diane Lapon, Kathleen Quirk, Harriet S. Warshaw, John G. Schuler

Mary Dummer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and Robert S. Edwards, who is running for Town Meeting member, addressed the Board with his qualifications, history and issues/concerns that would be a part of his platform which included support for a future senior center.

The Secretary's Report was accepted with one correction: The Participant Registration draft was voted on and sent to Al Robinson.

Gayle Thieme gave the Treasurer's Report with a statement that the operating budget was on track and that the budget for the Holiday Party was sufficient for the event. She also shared the following: the Volunteer Appreciation Event would be in April; COATS, the tracking system, could be used for many reasons and would be and the 2013 budget would be level funding and there were no cuts projected for the COA.

There was no Springwell update.

Sandy Budson, chair of the Public Relations Committee, commented on the enthusiasm of the group and stated that there was interest in having a Speakers Series to bring in new people as well as a continuation of the Coffee Hour. There was a reminder that baked goods could not be solicited for this event. Whole Foods had not only flower arranging activities but cooking demonstrations at the store and there was affirmation for the bulletin board outside the senior room which is overseen by Sheila Nugent. A big thank you was expressed for the success of the Spelling Bee as well as gratitude for those who represented the COA.

Gayle Thieme gave the Senior Center Update as neither John nor Susan were able to be at the meeting. Both the Morses Pond site and the Warren Building site are a no. The American Legion site continues to need more parking and the Washington Street site is on-going. There was a general feeling that Wellesley should be embarrassed with no senior center and the question raised was how to continue to keep the issue in front of the town. Some suggestions were made: encourage new town members who are supportive of a senior center; do handouts for the Town Meeting and put articles in Highlights; use Cable and projected needs resource list. Any other ideas should be sent to Mary Dummer.

Gayle completed her Administrative Update with the following: Sandy Boris-Berkowitz was hired to give informative sessions throughout the town about transportation; the question of how to sustain the Volunteer Driver program including a salary; stats on the COA bus being used for shopping etc; new programs/activities in conjunction with Elm Bank, Upham, Olin, Saint Paul's and an Arts for Fun display in the Senior Room.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM.

The next Council on Aging Board meeting is on January 23, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Wellesley Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by  
Sister Alice M. McCourt, SND