

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting
September 19, 2011

Attending: Mary Dummer, Linda Cohen, Gayle Thieme, Mary Bowers, Sandra Budson, Joellen Toussaint, Susan Kagan Lange, Kathleen Quirk, Sheila Nugent, Stanley G. Hodges, Bill Murphy, Dianne Sullivan, Diane Lapon, Harriet S. Warshaw, Andrew Punokas, Sister Alice M. McCourt

Absent: Eleanor Sullivan and John Schuler

Mary Dummer, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There was a welcome back to a new year and introductions were made to recognize new members and associates. There was no Citizen Speak and the Minutes were accepted. The next order of business was the Treasurer's Report and Gayle stated that she had met with Mary Dummer and Diane Lapon. She commented on Judy Keefe who is replacing the Administrative Assistant who is out on maternity leave and explained the use of monies for salary as well as time schedule and need for approval at a Town Meeting this fiscal year. The Report as given out and it was stated that there would be a quarterly report instead of monthly as agreed to at a previous meeting.

Gayle Thieme began the Administrative Update with a comprehensive explanation of the transportation options for seniors at this time. The Volunteer Driving Program and its success was explained in full including a celebration on October 20 at the Library to honor the work of the drivers and the Coordinator. The Fund for Wellesley has given \$5,000 more toward the continuance of this program. Gayle has also written a Title 3 grant that Springwell funded for \$9,000 to do community education and hire a support person so that all seniors have an opportunity to know their transportation options in Wellesley. Mention was also made of an Independent Transportation Network possibility which is in the making for Metro West and she will keep the Board apprised of in the future.

It was announced that Ted Behr from SOAR 55 is orienting to be a Volunteer/Volunteer Coordinator at the COA and this comes at no cost to the town. Current programming was commented on and continues to advance with new opportunities for seniors.

The next update was titled Issues and Policy. Drafts titled Policy: COA Publications and Disruptive Participants had been sent out with the Agenda. These topics generated much discussion and both were sent back for revisions incorporating some of the ideas and after researching whether or not policies already existed in the Town.

A short history of the Friends of Wellesley Senior Neighbors was given by Gayle as background to sharing some information and raising the question of the need for this kind of fundraising arm for the Council on Aging not only for the present but as we continue to hope for a stand-alone senior center. During this exchange of information, it was stated that it was discovered that the Friends does not have a 501 © 3 status. The need for immediate attention to this situation was brought up and Harriet Warshaw volunteered

to spear-head this concern. She is committed to gathering information and consulting an attorney for guidance and possibly doing pro-bono work to assure this status is renewed. The Board is aware that they can not participate in fundraising.

Susan Lange gave a short update on Springwell business which includes the agency yearly evaluation of vendors and the Medicare/Medicaid issue of re-hospitalization and its financial effects. Springwell is committed to “coaching” patients as they leave the hospital so that the discharge plan will take care of their needs and health will increase.

Sandy Budson reported for the Public Relations Committee and stated that they are trying “to spread the good news” in the Townsman monthly about programs/people at the Council on Aging. There is a hope that new programs will attract new people and that the story will be told by having current pictures and comments on a bulletin board outside the Tolles Parsons Room.

There was no Senior Center Update.

At this point in the meeting, Mary Dummer, the Chair, announced “having concluded the agenda for the open session of the Board, we will convene in Executive Session in order to discuss real estate matters now under consideration. At the conclusion of the Executive Session, the open session will not be reconvened.” Associate members left.

Mary then stated: “in order to comply with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, an Executive Session requires a majority vote by the members of the Board, with the votes recorded by roll call and entered in to the records.” This was done and there was a unanimous vote to have an Executive Session.

Mary Dummer, Chair, had called an Executive Session of full time Board members on August 23, 2011 at 1:00 PM. As many members as possible gathered on that day and were updated on the potential sites of the Senior Center by Susan Lange, John Schuler and Gayle Thieme, the Committee that meets with the BOS in on-going, confidential sessions. Information was shared verbally, visually and in a confidential written draft form. The meeting ended around 3:00 PM.

The Executive Session tonight again revolved around the future site of the Senior Center and was directed by Susan as John could not attend the Board meeting. Information was shared, issues were clarified, questions raised and much discussion followed. Nine members who were present voted yes to continuing on with research/discussion on the real estate sites presented while one member was opposed. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

The next Council on Aging Board meeting is on October 17, 2011 at 7:00 PM at the Wellesley Community Center.

Respectfully submitted by
Sister Alice M. McCourt, SND