

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting
February 24, 2014

Attending: Voting Members:, Sandra Budson, Mary Dummer, Susan Kagan-Lange, Diane Lapon, Miguel Lessing, Sr. Alice McCourt, Bill Murphy, Sheila Nugent, John Schuler, Dianne Sullivan and Joellen Toussaint. Associate Members: Judy Keefe, Joanne Kilsdonk, Penny Lawrence, Shirley Quinn, Richard TenEyck and Director of Senior Services Gayle Thieme.

Absent: Mary Bowers, Linda Cohen, Jack Cross, Stanley Hodges, Eleanor Sullivan and Harriet Warshaw.
Guests: Tom Coyle and Peter Godfrey

John Schuler, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. There were no requests for Citizen Speak.

Minutes of the January 27, 2014 were unanimously approved with minor corrections. Motion presented by Bill Murphy and seconded by Susan Kagan-Lange

The Friends of COA President Tom Coyle and Vice President Peter Godfrey updated the Board on the progress made in the initial year. Funds have been raised and some have been assigned to specific COA objectives. The entity is looking for more members with specific skills and is hoping to receive IRS tax exempt status soon. Tax exempt status will facilitate fundraising from businesses.

Staff reports brought up discussions emphasizing on how to achieve more awareness of COA's roles in Town and its achievements as well as the importance of having more statistics to support COA's claims and better assess its progress.

Gayle Thieme described the interest of a Dana Hall student to conduct her Senior Project with the COA. The project is awaiting school's approval. Gayle informed that electronic subscription to COA news and email blasts is operational. Finally, she appealed for the creation of an Activities Committee to address a) special events, b) continuing education and lifelong learning courses, c) researching other COA programs and benchmarking our programs versus those, and d) intergenerational activities.

Several Board members questioned whether the COA should be putting time and energy into lifelong learning programs when there is WWLL which is an organization whose sole mission is to do exactly this. The subject will be addressed in future meetings.

Dianne Sullivan described the progress made on the program to change the COA bus operation and presented a time-line of actions required for its launch in July, if Town Meeting approves COA's budget. Susan Kagan-Lange informed on progress made on the Long Range Strategic Plan.

John Schuler reminded that Board members should inform Gayle Thieme which committees they wish to continue participating in or wish to join. (Due to time limitations after the meeting Gayle has given the assignment to Miguel Lessing). There was no news on the Tolles Parsons Center project. Gayle will distribute the new board member manual to those that joined the Board in 2013.

The Board was asked by the Fuller Brook Park Coordinating Committee to have a vote in support of their project. The Board voted it was unable to reach a decision with the information it has available. The vote, motioned by Joellen Toussaint and seconded by Sheila Nugent, was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 PM

The next Board meeting is scheduled for 7 PM on March 20 at the Wellesley Community Center.

Presented by

Miguel Lessing, Secretary