

Wellesley Council on Aging Board Meeting
February 23, 2015

Attending: Voting Members: Sandy Budson, Mary Dummer
Susan Kagan Lange, Diane Lapon, Miguel Lessing, Sister Alice
McCourt, William Murphy, Shirley Quinn, Joellen Toussaint
Associate Members: Mary Bowers, Jean Boyle, Diane Campbell,
Linda Cohen, Lisa Heyison, Jerry Kelley, Joanne Kilsdonk,
Penelope Lawrence, Dianne Sullivan, Frederick Wright.
Gayle Thieme, Director of Senior Services; Elizabeth Bradley,
COA Program and Office Assistant
Absent: Judy Keefe, John Schuler, Jack Cross, Sheila Nugent

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Sandra Budson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. in Henderson Hall of the Wellesley Community Center.

The minutes of the November 24, 2014 Board meeting were approved.

Citizen Speak and Announcements: Mary Bowers announced that on behalf of the Board she had made a gift to the retiring manager of Roche Bros., Maggie McLaughlin, in recognition of her kindness to the COA. The new manager is Rick Piri.

Sister Alice McCourt requested that in future the budget narrative should be circulated to the Board before it is publicized.

Gayle Thieme introduced the new COA Program and Office Assistant, Elizabeth Bradley, a BU graduate who has previously worked at McLean Hospital.

Staff Reports: Due to roof and building leaks caused by the severe winter weather, there was considerable damage caused to archives, materials, and supplies stored in the senior room closet which

resulted in time-consuming and frustrating work for the staff. Reports have been made to the appropriate town officials. Apparently the Town does not maintain rental property housing Town offices.

There was discussion raised by the report of the Health and Social Services Administrator concerning the difficulty of providing hard statistics due to privacy issues. As a result it was decided to invite Linda Clifford to a future Board meeting to discuss her outreach work.

Kudos to the Senior Activities Coordinator for recognition of her good work in setting up a variety of programs.

Treasurer's Report and FY 16 COA budget updates. Miguel Lessing was congratulated on his presentation of the COA FY2016 budget to the Town Advisory Committee. In connection with this submission, the Treasurer presented his figures in a slightly different format from the original. The latest figures, made in answer to a request for reductions, reflect (a) some salary adjustments, (b) deleting a requested full-time position and maintaining existing part timers with more hours than at present-- this has the affect of reducing charges for health and other benefits-- (c) increased charges for renting the COA space at the Community Center, and (c) the deletion of uncertain grants.

At the November 24, 2015 meeting, the Board approved a budget of \$470,229; with last minute updates the budget submitted to the Board of Selectmen was \$523,428. Since then, in answer to a request for reductions, noted above, the FY16 request stands at \$474,541.

There was no particular reaction from the Advisory Committee. Further reductions will have to be negotiated.

The 1/30/15 COA Board Retreat: Sandy Budson reported that in answer to what seemed to be the sentiment of the retreat, a task force has been set up to investigate ways in which the COA Board can be made more effective. Its ideas will be presented at the next Board meeting, with a final recommendation and vote at the April Board meeting.

Demographic and Needs Assessment Committee Update. Penny Lawrence reported that the committee has met and decided to conduct focus groups to investigate the current demographic profile and the needs of Wellesley seniors. The committee will receive training from a professional focus group organizer. There will be 6 to 8 groups of 7 people each based on random phone calls to non-users of the COA facilities. It is expected that the committee will develop the topics on which to focus in April, and will conduct the focus groups in late May and June.

The ensuing discussion emphasized that there were no preconceived expectations, rather that this project is to gather information which can be used in long-term planning. The committee will coordinate its activities with the Director.

TPC Update In the absence of John Schuler, Gayle Thieme reported that the BOS is waiting for the answer to their complaint about Planning Board procedure made to the Land Court.

Other Business Mary Bowers reported that Judy Keefe had had an accident.

Because of winter weather there was a delay in mailing the newsletter which meant that the registration period was difficult.

There being no further business, it was voted to adjourn at 8:30.

Respectfully submitted, Shirley Quinn, Secretary