

Ashland Council on Aging (COA)

August 2, 2018

Guests:

Joanne Duffy, Kim Kotob, Susan Wells, Steve Mitchell

Board Members:

Present; Alexis Christopher, Jean Delouchry, Diane Hansen, Carol Love, Sara Perkett, Barbara Thoresen. and chair James Zebrowski.

Absent: Donna Vuilleumier

Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM

Diane read the Mission Statement.

Citizens Participation:

Steve Mitchell requested that members of the COA attend the BOS meeting scheduled for Wednesday August 8, 2018 where the BOS would be making a presentation to Gabe Mugerian for his long service. Steve also mentioned that there was a lot going on in town. One of the activities that developed into a discussion was the "Green" property and what was being developed on it: Phase 1: a Self Storage and Phase 2: an office building. It was a shame that the house could not be saved but no viable options were available.

Secretary's Report:

The June 7, 2018 Secretary's Report was read by Jim with full text copies in hand for the CoA members. A motion was made by Carole and seconded by Diane to accept the Secretary's minutes. The COA Board then voted 6-0-1 to accept the Secretary's Minutes, Jim abstained since he was not present.

Outreach Report:

Out Reach Report - The Outreach Report for August 2018 was shared. 134 clients served (6 new) in June and 94 clients served (4 new) in July. Susan still has some smoke detectors available to seniors in need of new ones. 20 Farmers' Market Coupon Booklets were received. Fuel assistance program has started. Sara Bateman, our veteran's agent, informed Susan that she had received \$50,000 from the state for an Acute Veteran's Relief Fund. There are issues at Mill Pond but they are being addressed by many town departments and individuals to resolve. Susan and Jennifer Wuelfing toured Whitney Place Assisted Living in Natick where they are currently at capacity and have a wait list. Susan reported that the Town of Ashland is in contract with Clear Path (a hording task force) and handed out their Peer Support Groups fall openings sheet.

Directors Report:

Director Report -The Director's Report for June/July was shared. The number of total seniors served in June and July have increased especially with the center closed 5 days in July indicating that it was a busy month. Major dates to remember: September 6 – a free breakfast provided by the Ashland Fire Department and September 17 – the Celebration of Life Luncheon. Joanne indicated that Karen Spilka has earmarked \$30,000 for Ashland to use for Dementia Friendly programs. The COA and FACOA need to have better communication; understand each's misDirector's minutes. The COA Board then voted 7-0-0 to accept the Director's Report.

Old Business:

CoA Table at August 11 Farmers Market- Everyone agreed to previous schedule: Alexis & Sara 9-10, Jean & Dianne 10-11:30, Donna & Jim 11:30-1. Alexis will bring banner and pamphlet (have 70+ copies). **Action: If time permits, Susan will supply Alexis with handouts for various Outreach programs.**

Council Members for 2018 Appointment to fill Izzy's seat- Unfortunately, the three names submitted were not available for this meeting. Jim has 2 new names and Sara may have a third. **Action: Board members to see if people that they know would be interested – there is no age limit for participation, If they are interested, have them fill in a Talent Bank form.**

Meetings at Senior Housing- The CoA October 2018 meeting will be at the Park Rd Senior Housing beginning at 10:00, currently with Rep Jack Lewis. State Senator Karen Spilka and Town Manager Michael Herbert will attend. Shorten agenda for this meeting with a second meeting scheduled for October to catch up on items that continue to be postponed to a future meeting. Proposed shorten Agenda:

- 10:00-10:30: coffee and breakfast breads etc.
- 10:30-11:30: trimmed down agenda to include Senior housing crisis, citizen's participation
- 11:30-12:00: Joanne Fahy will be arranging for 1 or 2 apartment tours

Action: Kim and Sue to post information. Supplies: – Kim – paper goods, Jean - bake & decaf coffee, Diane: juices, Sara & Donna: breads

Revisions to Our Policies & Procedures – first meeting is scheduled for August 16, 10am – meeting posted. All COA members welcome since it's an open meeting... **Action: Alexis to supply correct town charter reference.**

New Business:

None discussed

Agenda Items Not Discussed and Postponed to a Future Meeting:

- 1.) Addressing Diversity in Ashland
- 2.) Rebranding
- 3.) What do we want from the state?
- 4.) WACA PSA Days

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 was made by Alexis and seconded by Diane. The COA Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Documents referenced in the minutes

June 7, 2018 COA Secretary's Report (posted on Ashland website)

Outreach Report for August 2018 (copies found at Elder Affairs office)

Clear Path Peer Support Groups Fall 2018 Opens (copies found at Elder Affairs office)

Director's Report for June/July 2018 (copies found at Elder Affairs office)

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Christopher Vice Chair COA, acting in secretary's absence .

Please note: these minutes are a representation of the action and discussion at the Council on Aging Committee meeting and are not a verbatim transcript.