

Council on Aging and Human Services

Board Meeting October 17, 2013

Present: Director Vicki Lowe, Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Lloyd Gibbs, Vivian Pitts, Ann Alibrandi, Elaine Biggieri, Betty Travers and HESSCO representative Helen Rice

Absent/Excused: Jerry Norwood, Wendy Haney and Collin Haney

Meeting Called to order at 5:00pm by Joanne Pratt

Minutes of September 2013, accepted as amended

Budget: We are on track with spending. No unexpected items to date. The grant program we were looking into for the generator didn't work out. Vicki may need to request a warrant article, if we have a special town meeting this winter, to make up the difference. Vicki has been working with Randy and Department of Public Works on ideas. The quotes are all over the place, Vicki is going to have the school maintenance director look at the building needs and give her the best option for the quotes.

The Budget season for FY'15 is approaching. Vicki has been assigned her liaisons – Lead – Freeman, Thomas and Dring. She has not met anyone yet. Vicki stated she will need to think of another presentation to get their attention. This year Vicki plans to ask for a part-time outreach position – Ken 's job, to be funded by the town. This is less expensive than a part-time social worker. Vicki will then write the formula grant to fund driver positions. If that happens then she will apply for funding for an h/c accessible van through DOT. Potentially we would have 2 vans and the car to help meet the transportation needs in the community. The second van would be handicapped accessible.

Director's Report: Pam and Vicki attended the Massachusetts Council on Aging conference. Pam volunteered for part of a day which gave her free access to workshops. She concentrated on Hoarding and insurance classes which be very helpful in her work. Pam has been very busy with new clients and with existing clients. Noreen has been driving a few hours each week. We are able to help a new client get home from the dialysis center in Foxboro and she has been able to see a few of our clients who are at facilities. Ken had been out sick but is back at full force at this time. He has finished the Human Services Resource Guide for consumers. We are waiting for a senior tax worker to put the booklets together using our binder. Open Enrollment and Fuel Assistance are both starting soon. We are gearing up for that. Our community network meeting will be on Oct. 30 and the annual school community resource meeting will be on Nov. 18th.

Pam and Chris have been doing a fantastic job in their new roles. Their familiarity with residents and systems, procedures has been a real plus.

As a point of interest, the Administration on Aging has been renamed to the Administration of Community Living. This is an indication of the trend to combine aging services with human services.

The holiday season is upon us. We already have 125 signed up for the Lakeview party, some people who are new to us, and no one in the office has heard complaints voiced about the change of venue. The date for the senior center holiday party is set for 12/12 1-3. Mel Simons will be the entertainment.

We had our community travel meeting. We had a good turnout, got good ideas which the travel committee are researching to bring to the next meeting on Nov. 7 @ 1:00.

Vicki is doing a class with Stacey from Community Visiting Nurses Association on 11/21 @ 1:00, called Holiday Happenings. It will go over dealing with Holiday stress, aromatherapy, working on a budget, importance of sleep. We'll make some bath salts for people to take home for themselves or give as gifts.

Old Business: Open Meeting law sign off & state ethics commission certificates due. Everyone at the meeting had completed this task.

New business: Friends have a new space, which was suggested by one of the seniors. Information can be left for them and they have a few shelves for storage, if needed. Vicki has sent a letter to the Friends asked them, in writing, if they want to pay for the senior center holiday party and to co-sponsor some programs coming up this winter through Sage Education. They have sponsored these events in the past. They will do apple pies in November. (copy of request in folders) Vicki stated in the letter that the janitor does not come until Monday afternoon therefore would not be able to do the clean up after the pie making. Joanne Pratt has said she would make sure the room and the floor were cleaned so that no one could slip.

Friends have elected a new president Paul Dumas.

Helen Rice gave her report from HESSCO and she said the most of the discussion was on the budget how it was funded and how the funds were allocated.

Joanne called our attention to an article in the Globe that spoke of the town of Rochester, Ma receiving accreditation. Vicki stated it took many hours of work by volunteers and was very time consuming. Vicki did not feel it was practical at this time for Foxboro.

A thank you note was received from Evie Mahm praising the trip to Yellow Stone.

Motion to adjourn was made by Lloyd and seconded by Joanne, all agreed at 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Alibrandi