

AMHERST COUNCIL ON AGING MINUTES

Thursday, December 12, 2013
10 - 11:15 AM
Glass Room, Bangs Community Center

Members Present: Sue Dierks, Joan Golowich, Joel Gordon, John Magarian, Barbara Sutherland, Jack Wollensak

Staff Present: Nancy Pagano (Director/Program director), Maura Plante (Assistant Director/Services), Karen Erman (Administrative Assistant), Helen MacMellon (Social Worker)

Absent: Dan Clapp. Mary Jane Laus, Juana Truillo

Guests: Rosemary Kofler (President, Friends of the ASC), Dick Kofler (Vice-president, Friends of the ASC), Doris Holden (Treasurer, Friends of the ASC), Lisa White (RN,BS), Shirley Packard (Senior Health Advisory Group), Scott Merzbach (Reporter, Gazette)

WELCOME: **Joan Golowich** (Vice-Chair), called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. and welcomed everyone attending the meeting.

MINUTES: The Minutes for the COA meeting on November 7th were approved and accepted.

FRIENDS

Treasurer's Report: **Doris Holden** reported that **total assets** are **\$97,680.13**. The General Account has **\$4,263.48**; the Program Account has **\$863.57**; the Travel Account has **\$4,190.73**; and the Investment Account (Edward Jones) has **\$88,362.35**. Also, received from the FY14 annual solicitation is **\$3,088.00** and from the fund raising dinner at Johnny's Tavern, **\$336.83** was raised. Since July 1, 2013, the total raised is **\$4,531.23**. Forms to vote for the Florence savings Bank customer choice grant were sent with the Dec/Jan Senior Spirit. Two other fund-raising opportunities in December: wrapping gifts at Barnes & Noble and the Blessings Jewelry Sale.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Safety Inspection Findings: **Nancy** reported that there are two kinds of Inspections: Safety and Health. The Health one has not yet been done but Julie (Health Dept.) is concerned that the bathrooms are not up to standard; the tiles are difficult to clean properly. The kitchen is not up to code. There are many issues there. In your packet is the report for the Safety Certificate of Inspection, November 1, 2013. One concern is the furniture in the main lobby as the couches and cushioned chairs need to meet NFPA 701. They must be fireproofed or removed. Also, the large wall hanging in the main lobby needs to be fire-treated encased in glass or removed.

The Amherst Club Love Notes Grant: **Nancy** expressed much appreciation for receiving a letter announcing a grant which will be awarded on February 16th to support weekly walk-in wellness clinics serving senior residents of Ann Whalen Apartments and the Clark House Apartments. We don't yet know the amount that we will receive.

Other Current Fundraising Efforts Underway: Nancy mentioned two fund-raising efforts this month. Florence Savings Bangs members can vote for the Friends of the ASC to receive a Customers' Choice Community Grant and (2) Barnes and Noble gift wrapping for shoppers, the donations from which are always substantial. Another volunteer is needed to assist Lorine Timmermann.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Satellite Health Center: **Nancy** reported that Rosemary is willing to attend the next meeting on Dec. 12 at 8:30 AM at the Town Hall, but that we need someone else to also attend so that we can continue to be informed. The Town Manager will make his decision in the New Year. In our packet is a copy of the letter written by LSSE expressing their concerns.

Budget: **Nancy** reported that in our packet is the revised narrative for the budget, along with the proposed budget. She has a meeting with the Town Manager this afternoon to discuss it. There are two plans with Plan A being the preferred one for the Senior Center. It would have Karen fully supported by the Town and Helen partially supported, amounting to an increase of \$42,246 from the Town. Plan B has an increase of \$7,201 from the Town, which includes an increase in their support of Karen and some funds for office supplies and MCOA expenses.

SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Parking: **Jack** reported that the new parking stickers for 2014 have arrived from Rydin Decal and will go on sale December 15th for \$25.00 each. They will look a bit different - more distinctive and more easily distinguishable. The license plate numbers will be marked with a better pen to help them stay clearer longer. The same parking rules as last year will continue to apply in terms of places and times.

Long-Range Planning: **Jack** reported on the sub-committee's visit to the old Westfield Senior Center and their meeting with Tina Gorman, the director. They saw the plans for the new 2100+ square-foot center being built at a cost of \$7.1 million, exclusive of soft costs. Tina described how she proceeded to obtain these funds, a process that included strong support from their mayor, \$1000,000 seed money from the Friends, and several million from a bond issue. A detailed report is in our packet. Jack has tried three times to set up a visit with Agawam and the committee also wants to set up meetings with Representative Ellen Story, David Stevens, Massachusetts Association of Councils on Aging Executive Director and our Select board Chair, Stephanie O'Keefe. Other Senior Centers may also be visited.

Highland Valley Update:

Nancy reported that the new HVES director, Jera Jamison, would be coming to visit our Center soon to meet the staff. Our packet includes a sheet showing our HVES Nutrition Program account summary for the FY13 Federal Fiscal Year. Note that as of September we ended the year with a negative balance of \$1,100.18. Meals approved to be delivered are down in numbers. There are some discrepancies (being researched) having to do with their SAMs computer program that generates information about the meals that don't agree with our delivery sheets.

HVES now has a waiting list of people who want the home delivered meals for which funding is not available.

Barb reported that she attended the Highland Valley Executive Board meeting and that they are working to decrease the cost of health insurance for staff. **Joan** added that some of their contributors might be changed to help with the financial problems. Jera, the new Director, is working hard to deal with the financial situation.

S.H.A.G. Update: **Shirley** reported that back in 1999, she had our first nurse settled in her practice at the Senior Center. After a few weeks, Shirley realized that she was performing her services all alone so the idea arose to fix that problem. If she could find a few health care providers that would be willing to form a group and take on the responsibility of overseeing our nurses practice that might

work. Today she has asked Lisa our second nurse in this position to talk about how she performs her nursing health services. (see insert) **Lisa** reported on the variety of health issues she deals with and the number of visits in the community and at both Ann Whalen and Clark House. These have increased from 801 in 2009 to 1269 in 2013. Since July, the beginning of this fiscal year, she has seen 97 people in 573 visits. **Shirley** spoke about Lisa's caring, loving support of her clients.

Sue added a report from one of Dr. Clapp's clients in the ear clinic who stated that the reputation of the Amherst Senior Center for being a caring, positive, and helpful place for seniors was a key factor in their deciding to retire to Amherst.

STAFF REPORTS

Nancy reported on the Thanksgiving expenses for this year. (see sheet in packet). The number of people both eating at the Center and having meals delivered increased this year. 40 had home deliveries and 87 ate at the Center. The total expenses were \$1,013.09 with \$269.00 being donated (as well as 3 pies from Atkins and a cake from Judies). That left \$744.09 in the hole. We needed the Friends to help support payment of this meal. **Rosemary** reported that the Friends had received extra donations so they were able to cover these expenses. She added that Nancy's efforts or work from 5 AM to 5 PM were tremendous!

Maura and Helen reported that they continue to be very busy with complicated and involved cases, such that other seniors do not get all the help they need. They worry that they might be missing some folks who need their help. This spring, Amherst College will send some students to be Friendly Visitors with seniors so that will help. **Maura** mentioned how much she appreciates the Schildbach family, including the toddler, who all help with the brown bag program. **Lisa** reported that she will have three UMass nursing students who will join to help her.

The meeting adjourned at 11:23 AM to reassemble for lunch.

The NEXT MEETING will be held THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dierks, secretary ACOA.

DOCUMENT LIST

The following documents were made available to all members of the COA during the meeting. They are available for review at the Amherst Senior Center, 70 Boltwood Walk, Amherst, MA.

1. COA Meeting Agenda for December 12, 2013
2. Minutes of November 7, 2013
3. Friends of the Amherst Senior Center Treasurer Report
4. Town of Amherst Certificate of Inspection
5. The Amherst Club Love Notes 2014 Grant Application Form
6. LSSE Commission Memo to John Musante, Town Manager Re Proposed Relocation of LSSE to East Street School
7. Senior Center Community Service Report

8. Senior Center Budget Proposals
9. Sub-Committee Reports on Long Range Planning and Parking Stickers
10. Long-Range Planning Committee Report on Meeting with Tina Gorman, Executive Director of Westfield COA
11. Highland Valley Elder Service 2013 Federal Fiscal Year Report
12. Amherst COA Senior Health Services Policy Information Sheets
13. November 2013 Report of Amherst Senior Health Services by Lisa White, RN, BS
14. Thanksgiving Financial Summaries, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013