

**HINGHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF THE MARCH 14, 2016 MEETING**

Present: Gail Faring, June Freedman, Chrisanne Gregoire, Linda Hurley, Joan Iovino, Beth Rouleau, Dawn Sibor, Barbara Farnsworth, Director

Absent: Gretchen Condon, Debra Hoffman, Dick Ponte, Leslie Vickers

Guest: Tom Carey, Chairman of the Town Hall Space Needs Committee

Call to order at 4:30 p.m. by Dawn Sibor for Gretchen Condon

Barbara Farnsworth introduced Tom Carey, Chair of the Town Hall Space Needs Committee. Tom Carey gave a brief history of the project to develop Central Junior High School into the Town Hall Building; and the renovation of the former Town Hall into the current library. Tom Carey explained that the charge of the committee was to look at the space needs of the various departments most notably the Police Department, Elder Services, and Fire. The Committee will be moving forward with further study of how this building can be used to accommodate some of those needs and/or if alternate space may need to be sought. Discussion followed regarding how the Senior Center had outgrown its current space and the need for physical space to not only accommodate programs that are in place today but those of the future.

The meeting was then turned over to Beth Rouleau, Vice –Chair.

SECRETARY’S REPORT - Joan Iovino

Motion by Chrisanne Gregoire, second by June Freedman, to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2016 meeting, passed unanimously.

TREASURER’S REPORT - Dawn Sibor

Donation Account Report

Total revenues for January and February - \$3,011.00

Expenses for January and February - \$516.66

Balance after earmarks - \$43,360.98

Revolving Account Report

Revenues from 7/1/15 - 2/31/15 - \$31,026.98

Expenses – 7/1/2015-12/31/15 - \$18,544.82

Balance as of 12/31/2015 - \$12,482.16

Municipal Account Report

No unforeseen expenses

Motion by Chrisanne Gregoire, second by Gail Faring to accept the Donation, Revolving and Municipal Accounts as presented, passed unanimously.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Barbara Farnsworth

MCOA will be advocating for \$10/Senior this year. Barbara will be sending the Council emails to call for action when the time arrives.

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Nicole Reilly has accepted a position at Glastonbury Abby and will work her regular hours through March 31. During the month of April, she will work one day/week. There will be an open house for her at the Senior Center on Friday, April 1 from 10-11 a.m.

The Administrative Secretary's position has not been posted and the Program Coordinator position has not been posted. Barbara Farnsworth explained that the Staffing Subcommittee has not yet completed its work and the positions will not be posted until the Committee has brought forth recommendations to the full Council. It is expected that the Committee will complete its work by early April and bring forth these recommendations at the April Council meeting. Following that meeting, changes will need to be approved by the Town's Personnel Committee. In the interim, Peggy Dooling has been working 12 hours a week temporarily, especially to help with the Tax Assistance Program.

The Council's proposed FY'17 budget has been approved by both the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board. There will be a slight decrease in the amount requested due to a new contract for vehicle fuel which lowered the price of gasoline. The Capital Outlay request for a new vehicle has been approved by the Capital Outlay Committee. There will also be two warrant articles from the Department at Town Meeting. The first article is a housekeeping article concerning the Revolving Account. The second article is a proposal to increase the Tax Work-Off hours to 125 hours at minimum wage.

Tom Mayo is the new Assistant Town Administrator. Betty Foley, current Assistant Town Administrator, will be retiring on June 30. Tom Mayo began on March 14.

90th Birthday Party – Barbara Farnsworth discussed not holding the event this year and taking some time to decide whether or not to continue with the 90th Birthday Party in its current form. The number of individuals 90 and older has reached approximately 485 individuals, and attendance at last year's event was 140. The increased numbers of attendees combined with the number of individuals who need assistance and arrive with a home health aide, gave the staff cause for concern that we could very well exceed the seating limit at Black Rock. Dawn Sibor raised the possibility that in future years, we only invite those who turn 90 – for 2016 that would have been approximately 100 people. It was the consensus of the Council to put the event on hold for this year and send birthday cards and a gift card for an ice cream Sundae at Nona's to all seniors turning 90 this year. Beth Rouleau will facilitate this project.

New chairs have been ordered for the dining room.

Aging Mastery Program - The program will begin on March 28 and we have 30 individuals enrolled in the program. Barbara Farnsworth and Dawn Sibor are the

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Program leaders and will attend the training on March 15. Hingham received a \$1500 grant to implement the program which is part of a national effort through the National Council on Aging. The grant was through the State Incentive Grant Program as administered by MCOA.

There was an incident in early February regarding medical transport to Boston as provided through the MAP5 Program. The individual needed to go to the ER from their appointment and because of scheduling the MAP5 Program was not able to provide return transportation to Hingham. Elder Services instructed the individual to arrange for a taxi cab for the ride home and Elder Services would reimburse the individual for that expense. The individual was quite upset with this arrangement and felt abandoned. The individual refused reimbursement for the cab fare. As a follow-up to scheduling such transportation, Elder Services has included written instructions in its confirmation statement that instructs passengers that if there is a change in their scheduling while in Boston, we may not be able to accommodate the return trip home and therefore, a back-up plan for a ride home should be made if such a situation arose.

LIAISON FOR SOUTH SHORE ELDER SERVICES - Gail Faring

A written report was distributed outlining discussion from the January 5, February 2, and March 1 Board of Directors meetings.

FUTURE AGENDA

Report from the Staffing Subcommittee

There being no further business, motion to adjourn by June Freedman, second by Linda Hurley, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m. by interim Chairman Beth Rouleau.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, April 11, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Iovino, Secretary