

COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 10, 2013

Present: Millie Berman, Rita Edelston, Elliot Feldman, Ralph Generazzo, Richard Gordon, Arnold Kublin, Rob Maidman, Sheila Pallay, Marilyn Stewart, and Norma Simons Fitzgerald. **Absent:** Madhav Kacker, Mindy Kempner, and Sui Wen Yang

Guests: Jane Desberg,

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 PM. The minutes of the November 19, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

Norma Simons Fitzgerald's report

Norma send a report. She also spoke about the Vera Cross art opening. Our bus broke down and there was also a minor accident. We are applying for a grant to replace tires. The View will come out in late December. Norma said that HESSCO lost their transportation provider to Boston. HESSCO will divide the remaining money and give it to all the local HESSCO towns. We are getting volunteers to drive elders to Boston. Norma handed out a draft of a new brochure. This brochure may be distributed with the water bill.

Old business

Aging in Place – topic: housing needs; Jane Desberg from Sharon Housing Partnership & Affordable Housing Trust spoke. B'nai B'rith is still interested in the Sharon Commons property and building some affordable housing units, an independent living model. The commercial development will drive the Affordable Housing Trust that might be able to pick up some houses one at a time. Jane said that Hixson Farm property cannot add units because of the new Title V laws.

Jane then talked about the Affordable Housing Trust. She said that there are eight affordable units at the Wilber School. Rob talked about a possible development adjoining the Sharon Country Club. The best possible outcome is that the developer gives money to the Trust. It is very unlikely that they will build affordable units. We would like to submit a joint letter with the Sharon Affordable Partnership to the Selectmen to ask that affordable units be built at Sharon Commons.

Norma spoke about the FY 15 budget. She has given different drafts to the Selectmen. The level funded budget would be \$268,512. The State Formula Grant has increased to \$27,208 which goes to salaries. Arnold brought up the fact that any increased Formula Grant funds means that the Town allocates less money to the COA.

New Business

We need to have elections to elect a Chairperson, Vice-chair and Secretary. Elections will be held at our next Board meeting.

Arnold shared that The Ride will be instituting penalties for no shows and tardiness. Penalties will translate to suspension from use of The Ride. Arnold said that maybe The Ride could advise us about future transportation need.

Committee Reports

Sheila announced that HESSCO ended its year in good shape with no deficit or waiting list. Its annual meeting will be held tomorrow morning.

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next meeting will be January 14th at 3:00.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted
Elliot Feldman
Secretary