

Council on Aging (COA) Meeting
September 8, 2009

The COA meeting was called to order at 3:18 pm in the COA room at the Lyman Building/Town Hall. Members present were Gary Leonard, Rosemary Wayrynen, Linda Stacy, and Nancy Catalini. Also present was Kathryn Becker, Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator. As a quorum was not present, no votes were taken on any business presented, only discussion.

The Secretary's Report from the June 9, 2009 regular meeting was read and accepted as read. The Treasurer was not present, but a COA budget for 2010 was handed out. The Town of Ashby's contribution will be \$1,000.00, along with an EOEI Formula Grant of \$3,500.00 (tentative), giving the COA \$4,500.00 (tentative) to work with for 2010.

The Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator's Report was handed out. Of special note were the many and various outreach contacts to the seniors, and the upcoming flu shots, scheduled for October 6th at the Ashby Library and October 15th at the American Legion. The next newsletter will go out on October 1st.

Membership to the COA is in one of the following capacities: as a Board member, as an Associate member, or as an Alternate member. A new list of the members, along with an explanation of their responsibilities, was presented. A copy will be attached to the secretary's report for reference.

Old Business: The members present discussed the need to clean out the medical equipment and take stock of what is currently available for loan. A list for checking out/checking in of the equipment will then be made up. Kathryn Becker will ask Town Council via Jen Collins about liability connected to the equipment. Should a release form be signed was asked in regard to the liability. A need for a return policy, which spells out how long a person can have use of the medical equipment, was tabled for another meeting. The COA is pleased to be able to offer this service to the town's senior residents.

New Business: Board membership vacancies were discussed. Chairman Leonard and Linda Stacy will prepare information for the next meeting.

The Senior Citizen lunch program at the elementary school was brought up regarding the possibility of being dissolved. The attendance at the school is very low. However, the Meals on Wheels lunch program will continue. The mileage cost for delivering the meals is escalating and there is a concern that there will be enough money for the school year. Kathryn Becker will follow-up with MOC and Montachusett Health Care on their place, if any, in this program. Also, Kathryn will speak to Angie Godin, who handles the deliveries for Meals on Wheels, about paying the volunteer drivers.

Memory Walk: A walk for Alzheimer's will be held at Mount Wachusett Community College in Gardner on September 26th @ 10:00 am. Proceeds will help fund programs throughout Worcester County. Flyer posted.

2009 Day of Caring: Sponsored by the United Way, the event promotes the spirit and value of volunteerism, along with an awareness of local non-profit agencies. To be held on September 10, 2009. Flyer posted.

Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13, 2009 at 3:15 pm at the Town Hall in the COA room.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy L. Catalini, Secretary for COA