



TOWN OF KINGSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Office of the

COUNCIL ON AGING

Kingston Senior Center

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KINGSTON COUNCIL ON AGING MONTHLY MEETING

September 20, 2011

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The meeting was called to order at 1:05 P.M. by the Chair Tom Croce.

Members present: Barbara Costa, Tom Croce, Joan Hutchison and Peg Riordan

Member(s) not present: Al Barcella and Sylvia Vaz

In Attendance: Linda Felix, Joan Holland, Jan Croce, Anna Fiore and Dennis Randall.

The Chair, Tom Croce, announced the meeting was being recorded.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: August 16th meeting minutes were reviewed and a motion was made by Peg Riordan seconded by Joan Hutchison to accept the minutes with minor changes. Unanimously accepted with minor changes.

DIRECTORS REPORT: August attendance seemed to be a little slower. Linda believes it's due to Hurricane Irene and seniors staying home. One senior was at the Senior Center a few days following the hurricane and was taken care of by the staff. She was given food and spent her time watching movies. A tree fell onto the roof during Hurricane Irene causing \$40,000 worth of damage. There is no structural damage, just cosmetic.

Transportation usage has increased from 243 trips last month to 316 trips this month. Linda stated the seniors from Wingate with cars are using the vans, instead of their own cars, to save money on gas. Linda said she will contact Wingate about their residents using the vans since Wingate does have their own vans for transportation. Linda stated the people who are in need of the van may not be able to get a ride. Linda stated people wanting to use the vans to save money is too much. Linda stated she will arrange a meeting with the Wingate representative and have a meeting including Dottie. Tom Croce mentioned if Linda didn't get anywhere, the Board would invite Wingate to a Board meeting to discuss the van usage. Joan Hutchison suggested asking Wingate for a donation if they can't service their residents with their own vans. Linda stated there are two (2) new clients using the vans who are in wheelchairs and extra time is needed when they are riding the vans.

Linda reviewed the budget stating there are new bills that need to be paid that aren't in the budget. The sewer bill is \$120 per quarter and the cost of the color copier for ink and maintenance is \$1,400 a year. Janitorial expenses, paper towels etc, could be \$1,600 and gasoline for the first month is \$1,600.

Activities – there was a Lunch & Learn attended by approximately fifty (50) people and Linda was disappointed in the turn out, she was hoping for one hundred (100) people. The Beach Party was fun and the World War II songs were a big hit. In October there will be a Sock Hop and an Oktoberfest.

Linda wanted to welcome the new custodian Steve Hayward. She states he takes the initiative to do what needs to be done without being told. He is very conscientious and very helpful. Prior to Steve Hayward, the person helping from another department would only do what Linda had on a to do list. Ralph Caldero is now at the Senior Center on Mondays and Wednesday as a SHINE representative. He passed the necessary SHINE course. Priscilla is doing the newsletter and it takes her about three (3) hours to get it done. More solicitation will be done for more advertisements. There needs to be more advertisement to get more pages. The page count has increased from four (4) last year to six (6) this year. Linda doesn't like how it's set up but more advertisement is needed for more pages.

The defibrillator has been installed. The Staff was trained last week on how to use it. The Town is looking to standardize the equipment for each building.

Linda has a Punch list for the Senior Center Building Committee meeting tonight. The list consist of the baseboard in the Men/Woman's rest room, the lines in the parking lot are already fading, after only eight (8) months, especially near the blue cross walk, the molding is coming apart in the lounge, the patio needs more sand, there is water running off in the grass area behind the kitchen, something needs to be done about the drainage and there should be crushed rock around the foundation rather than sand. There are cracks in the heated sidewalk and Linda has been told not to worry about them. Steve Hayward needs training on the whole building based on the maintenance manual from Dan Pallotta. She is waiting for the laptops and a wireless microphone. Linda is looking for a shed to store the grill, blower etc. Linda said there is no storage. She has had to say no to Christmas tree and a lady wanting to donate a sewing machine because there is no room to store the items. Linda said she wants new things for the Center.

Tom Croce is looking for more shelves in the kitchen. Linda said to look and see what could be moved to the attic. She doesn't want to add more shelves because more items will be added to fill up the shelves. Tom mentioned an ice machine is needed in the kitchen. Tom also mentioned the August 19th letter to Dan Pallotta asking for a 10x12 shed to house the patio furniture, garden tools, grills etc.

OLD COLONY ELDERLY REPORT: No report. Linda stated she talked to Paul Armstrong and Dottie will be able to use the town car if needed, to attend the meetings.

OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL: No report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Barbara Costa made motion to nominate Dennis Randall for the open position on the Council on Aging Board, second by Joan Hutchinson. The Board voted unanimously in favor to recommend Dennis Randall to the Board of Selectmen as Hazel Foley's replacement. Dennis Randall briefly explained to the Board how he would like to contribute to the Board, if appointed. Linda stressed that the Board should look at all the applicants as she knew a few others had applied. Tom Croce said a few people

had withdrawn their names and they are recommending Dennis Randall.

Joan Hutchinson asked the status on the piano. Tom Croce mentioned the September 1st letter to the Selectmen declining the organ and stating a player piano would get more use by more people.

Linda said she wrote a letter to Selectmen thanking Tom Gallo for his help around the Senior Center.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Fire Department will be at the Senior Center three (3) times in October. Chief Heath, representing KEMA will be speaking October 6th on the hurricane, transportation to shelters and what to do in an emergency. October 21st Captain Currier will be teaching a CPR and First Aid class for a \$10 fee to anyone who is interested and on October 27th, there will be a seminar on Senior Safety put on by the Fire Dept.

Linda looking for someone to volunteer to organize a Tri Aid meeting with the Police, Fire and Sheriff's Departments for the Seniors.

Linda stated if a Poland Spring water cooler is wanted, it needs to be donated because the budget can't handle it. She said it would cost about \$30 a month and to see the Friends of the Kingston Council on Aging. She stated the Friends are saving money because they used to pay for the TV but don't anymore. Linda doesn't want people watching TV because they can do that at home.

OLD BUSINESS: Tom Croce mentioned he will discuss the Policy & Procedures of the COA in October when there is a full Board. He mentioned the length of terms for serving on the Board and the Advisory Board. The Advisory Board would not be a voting member unless there is no quorum and then they can vote.

There is a Senior Center Building Comm. meeting tonight at 7:30.

Linda will be attending the FCOA in Sturbridge October 5th, 6th and 7th (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday).

Tom Croce thanked everyone for attending the dinner honoring him on Thursday night.

OPEN FORUM:

Motion to adjourn by Joan Hutchison seconded by Peg Riordan. Unanimously accepted. Meeting adjourned at 2:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Barbara D Costa

Acting Secretary For Sylvia Vaz