

**WENHAM COUNCIL ON AGING
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2009**

Board Members Attending: Roseann Brozenske, Susan Carp, Dick Eddy, Jean Eddy, Mary Kelly, Luci Lynch. Cil Moscatiello, and Merle Welsh
Associate Member: Nancy Spofford

Minutes of the December 9th Meeting were approved as submitted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Meal Program at Enon Village – The Director reported that both the Wenham Housing Authority and the First Church approved her request for grant money to go toward paying for a site manager to assist in reinstating noon meals three days a week at Enon Village. Working with Senior Care she hopes to start up around the 1st of February. A job posting has been sent out around town, and she plans to begin interviewing for this position within the next week.

Holiday Plants - This was a great success! Most of the 185 plants were delivered. Many thank you notes have been received, as well as a donation in the amount of \$20. This was deposited in the COA Gift Account. This year about 8-9 Buker parents assisted in the delivery of the plants.

TRIAD - This program is going slowly. Free Give-a-Ways will be offered at Enon Village on Tuesday, March 17th, along with a corned beef luncheon, followed by a memory loss program. TRIAD is also discussing setting up collection boxes for old cell phones. There are a number of programs available that will buy back old cell phones. One of these is the National Council on Aging. However, you must be a member in order to participate and the cost is \$195. This Group puts out a publication, and offers conferences, as well as Grants, but seems expensive.

Wellness Program - Through Northeast Health Systems, our monthly wellness programs continue, seeing about 7-9 seniors each time. Some attend for podiatry, some for blood pressure and blood sugar screenings. Over the last few months we have been seeing “new people” each time. About ten attended the recently held talk on prevention of falls. A memory loss program is scheduled for March, and in June there is a tentatively scheduled talk on walking clubs.

Other Programs - A Healthy Cooking program is planned for January 22nd. Light chowders will be the topic. In February, the Food Service Director for the school district has offered to show a film on healthy shopping at the grocery store, and we are hoping to get a store to donate a gift card.

Jack Hauck has offered to bring back the History Club—although the Director is not sure if this will be monthly. He is scheduled to do a presentation on Indians in February.

Office Assistance - Jeff Hyde, van dispatcher, left just after Christmas and will not return until April. The Director thought she could manage by herself, but has found trying to do both jobs-- 5 days a week—is overwhelming. She was recently approached by a resident who is interested in the Tax Work-Off program. She has scheduled a time to meet and explore what might be worked out. Perhaps this person could answer the phones for the van, do some light filing and get the books organized for the new year.

FY09-10 Budget - The Selectmen have recommended a budget which includes a 10% cut for most departments, with larger cuts for bigger departments. The budget now goes before the Finance Committee for their recommendations. The amounts are still a moving target. Our current budget has \$4,162.35 left in the expense account. This pays for newsletter printing, part of the wellness clinic, telephones, office supplies and programs such as healthy cooking. Board members were asked for any other ideas for items we might need to consider. Purchase of a Wii game, which was tabled previously, was discussed. There seems to be mixed feelings with other groups who own them. Some love it, some feel it isn't used often enough to justify the \$500 cost. If we could find a used Wii this might be an idea.

Other possible cost saving ideas were discussed in view of what is expected be the tough economic times ahead.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Friends - Mary Kelly reported that the Friends have received the funding they requested for the Kite Day , and things are progressing.

Work on the Town Quilt continues. The sections have been put together and now the border work will begin. The Friends are still seeking a new Treasurer. Their next meeting will be in March.

Movies - Roseann stated that five people attended last months movie. The next film, shown tomorrow, will be "Guess Whose Coming to Dinner". Suggestions for future movies included the Kite Runner and October Sky.

Handiman - Dick Eddy reported that the Kite Committee is working on several options for this event. Where to build the kites , where to have a breakfast, and the possibility of combining these locations. The use of Patten Park is not available, so it appears they will once again use Gordon. They like the option of the Fire Dept. doing the Breakfast. The Committee is working on these various questions. Due to conflicts with various sports related happenings, the date has been changed to Sunday April 26th.

The chair canning group continues through January, with six people hard at work. They are also scheduling a training session for those who are working with the Energy Audit recommendations. Many requests were beyond their capability.

Dick also noted they have completed work on a new podium for the Town Administrator. This will include a brass plaque on the front identifying it as a gift from the COA. This is expected to be presented within a week or so, and our own

podium, now on loan to the Town, will then be returned to the Senior Center.

Coffees - On January 10th Assessor Tom Tanous and Clerk Steve Gasperoni, spoke on the various tax exemptions available⁴ to Seniors. About 22 people attended this session, and many stayed to talk with them , one to one. The speaker in January will be Jan Dempsey Library Director. It expected someone from the School Department will be the guest.

OLD BUSINESS:

CPA Waivers for Wenham Seniors. Susan Carp reported that in many towns, anyone who has any other exemption ie: Veterans, blind, etc are automatically given a CPA exemption. Wenham has not adopted this policy. Steve Gasperoni noted that only about 14 people—over 60—are actually eligible for these in Wenham. He has offered to have Susan or Gerry accompany him when he meets with seniors, to help them apply for waivers. Susan noted their meeting with Steve was very positive.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Director announced that she is no longer going to offer SHINE counseling to Wenham Seniors, due to the lack of interest in the program. Given the amount of time required to maintain Certification, against the number of people asking for the service, it does not seem to be a good use of her time. She will be able to refer any new requests for help to other communities.

Meeting adjourned at 3:27 P.M.

Next Meeting – February 10, 2009 at 2:00 P.M.

Lucille Lynch, Secretary