

The Andover Council on Aging Board (COAB) met in regular session on Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 8:00 am at The Center at Punchard, 30 Whittier Court, Andover, MA.

Chair Ann Grecoe called the meeting to order at 8:02 am and on
ROLL CALL: Present were Kaye Devanna, Jane Gifun, Joe Ponti, Ann Grecoe, Joan Fox, Ken DeBenedictis, Margaret O'Connor and Stu McNeil.

Also present were Kathy Urquhart, Director of Elder Services; Donna Morse, Executive Secretary of Elder Services; Board of Selectmen Liaison Alex Vispoli; Finance Committee Liaison Blackwell (Bojay) Taylor and resident Dave Murphy.

Absent were Mike Roli and Don Robb.

Minutes

On MOTION by Jane Gifun, which was seconded by Joe Ponti, it was voted to accept the minutes. On VOICE VOTE the motion was declared as PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Director's Report

Kathy Urquhart reviewed the FY17 budget stating that it remained static except for the reinstatement of the part-time Program Assistant to accommodate the request for programming on weekends and in the evenings. Board members requested that funding be added so that The Center's newsletter can be mailed monthly instead of quarterly so residents will be more aware of The Center and what services and programs are offered. Kathy stated that research will need to be done to determine the costs and if the publisher can accommodate the request.

Old Business

Communication - Ann Grecoe requested that when members receive an email all should respond one way or the other and use the "respond all". Always use Town email and always cc: Kathy Urquhart.

Committee Reports

Tax Relief – In the absence of Mike Roli, Ken DeBenedictis requested the Board's assistance with some details of H3199. After some discussion a MOTION was made by Ken DeBenedictis, and seconded by Margaret O'Connor, to approve the language of Tax Relief Bill H3199 with stipulations/qualifications, include "primary residence", "renting", and to clarify the word "ballot" v town meeting. On VOICE VOTE the motion was declared as PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Housing - Joe Ponti reported that a draft of the Housing article is ready and a forum has been scheduled for January 26th at 6 pm at Memorial Hall Library to get final feedback from residents before putting a warrant article forward for the next town meeting. Then there will be a publicity campaign to make the residents aware of the need for this article. Kathy Urquhart suggested that the Board members offer to bring senior neighbors to Town Meeting. She also mentioned that there is a legislative breakfast tentatively scheduled for January 29th in Tewksbury.

Nominating - Jane Gifun reported that the Board will be looking for new members as three people will be leaving the Board at the end of June. The Committee would like to put something in the newspaper and the March newsletter to this effect. Ken DeBenedictis reported that the Committee hopes to have names by the end of March and by the end of April interview potential members. He stated that the process needs to be clean and clear.

Shining Star Award - the Committee will schedule a meeting.

Other Business

It was announced that the September meeting will be held on the 15th as The Center will be closed for voting on the 8th.

Ann Grecoe stated that the February meeting's agenda will be a discussion of the Strategic Plan.

Kathy Urquhart asked "Who is the COA?" She explained that it is "all of us". The Town refers to the department as Elder Services and the state refers to the department as the Council on Aging. The Board is a part of this; the Department and the Board work together.

On MOTION of Jane Gifun, and seconded by Stu McNeil, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Morse
Recording Secretary

The next meeting is February 11, 2016.