

The Andover Council on Aging Advisory Board met in regular session on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 8:00 am at the Andover/North Andover YMCA, 165 Haverhill Street, Andover, MA.

Chair Ann Grecoe called the meeting to order at 8:01 am and on ROLL CALL: Present were Margaret O'Connor, Kaye Devanna, Joan Fox, Ann Grecoe, Mike Roli, Jane Gifun, Don Robb, Joe Ponti, Ken DeBenedictis and Stu McNeil.

Also present were Kathy Urquhart, Director of Elder Services; Donna Morse, Executive Secretary of Elder Services; Ales Vispoli, Board of Selectmen Liaison; Blackwell Taylor, Finance Committee Liaison; residents Ann Cobleigh, Andover Senior Community Friends President; Molly Bicking, Patrice Minton and Dave Murphy.

### **Minutes**

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

### **Committee Reports**

Tax Relief - Mike Roli gave an overview of the project for the guests and reported that he would be meeting with Town Manager Andrew Flanagan to review the numbers and identify the next steps.

Nominating – Jane Gifun reported that the committee has received copies of Talent Bank Forms and have good prospects to bring forward.

Housing - Joe Ponti reported that he has been trying to reach Sen. L'Italien and Rep. Lyons. He wants to brief The Center's staff. He stated that posters have been created and that he is presenting a 2-part program at The Center. A presentation has been done to the Planning Board and will be done to the Selectmen and Finance Committee. A MOTION was made by Don Robb, which was seconded by Joe Ponti, to authorize all Board members to speak for the Council on Aging Advisory Board to promote the upcoming article. On VOICE VOTE the motion was declared as PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Transportation - Margaret O'Connor stated that the decision was to focus on the MBTA Charlie Card and then continue their efforts to expand free MVRTA service.

### **New Business**

Andover Senior Community Friends (ASCF) - Ann Cobleigh, President of ASCF spoke about the group's plans to expand and build relationships and they are entering a growth period. Ann told Kathy that they look forward to working with The Center to help with possible needs. A brainstorming meeting will be held on March 16 at 6 pm at The Center at Punchard to brainstorm ideas.

### **Nominations**

The floor was opened for nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Elections will take place at the April meeting.

**Director's Report**

Kathy Urquhart distributed copies of "A Guide for Board Members" and suggested that it is a good team building tool. It was suggested that they reach out to other Councils on Aging also. Kathy was asked about the youth center and stated that the Volunteer Reception would be held there on May 6. Kathy reported that with regard to the FY17 budget presentation, she was only able to talk about the three slides that had been prepared. Departments were not allowed to discuss items that the Town Manager had already removed from the budget, in particular, the reinstatement of a part-time program assistant. When asked about getting people out to attend Town Meeting and voting she responded that there will be information on the front page of The Center's newsletter. Kathy was asked what is being done to replace her when she retires. She responded that they are looking at reorganizing the set-up of Elder Services, Community Services, Youth Services and Veterans Services to report to a department head level person. Margaret O'Connor stated that the Board should have input into the Director's position.

On MOTION of Ken DeBenedictis, and seconded by Joan Fox, the meeting adjourned at 9:27 am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Donna Morse  
Recording Secretary

The next regular meeting is April 14, 2016 at 8 am.