

Council on Aging Meeting
February 5, 2001

Members in Attendance:
Arletta Cioffari-Chairperson
Clay Allen
Ron Riggert
Catherine Kuras
Carol Oram
John Rhome
Judy Deutsch
Esther Mann

Also Attending:
Ruth Griesel-Director
Maureen Hafner-Town Assessor

The meeting came to order at 7:10 p.m.

Director's Report-Ruth Griesel

- Martha Curran's farewell party was a huge success. The Town Crier article was very well done. Martha was pleased with that and with the Certificate of Appreciation from the COA. This has been appropriately framed and a personalized photo album has been prepared by Clay and June Allen.
- A thank-you note for a Christmas plant was also received from Marguerite Urgotis.
- Outreach Position: Carol Oram and Ruth attended the budget hearing. The Board of Health spoke first and stated their desire to have the outreach position in the new Department of Human Services. Ruth and Carol spoke in support of the need for information and referral at the Senior Center. Wayne Walker wants Judy Langlois to work with Ruth and Martha Lynn to decide on how the outreach worker will work with the Senior Center.
- Ruth read an interesting quote from the MCOA Newsletter: "Either we become the focal point for the delivery of assistance to the seniors in the community or we will be relegated to operating bingo in church basements".
- The St. Patrick's Day Party will be on March 14. Plans are now underway with the Senior Strutters and with the Curtis Middle School Select Orchestra and Chorus.
- The Town Forum presentation to the Selectmen by the COA will be on Monday, February 26 at 8:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. We have 10 minutes. Please come if you can.
- A tour of the Curtis Middle School is being arranged for Monday, February 12.
- Andrea Weaver requests old, used eyeglasses for the Bridges Program.

Maureen Hafner from the Town Assessor's Office came to our meeting to tell us more about the Tax Deferral Program and other aspects of tax abatement, tax relief, and the Circuit Breaker plan. She answered many questions and gave us information about how to go about making changes in the interest rate for tax deferral as well as the income guidelines. She emphasized property values in Sudbury and the fact that Sudbury is a very desirable place to live and to own property. She also explained Sudbury's use of Clause 18 for tax relief. She was very helpful, and we were pleased that she took time from her very busy schedule to talk to us.

BayPath Report-Louise O'Connor

- Elders at Risk program is in place for persons 60 and older.
- Christine Alessandro plans to visit all Senior Centers in the BayPath area.
- Valentine letters to Legislators-An annual event in February identifies clients who are willing to write letters to their legislators.

Finance Report-Ron Riggert/Ruth Griesel

- Ron Riggert presented and explained the quarterly finance report as well as the Calendar Year 2000 report. Ruth Griesel presented the quarterly report for the COA's line item in the Town budget.

Intergenerational Update-Ruth Griesel/Carol Oram

- Ruth and Carol met with Patti Grenier to discuss the program. The level of the schools' commitment is very high. Training of all remaining teachers will be done in August, and by the end of the next school year, operation will be total. Volunteers are ready to go, and four classes begin in March. Andrea trained the teachers in January and will attend some of the classes this Spring.

Nominating Committee-Carol Oram

- Only one member is needed for the Council, and this candidate will be presented at the March meeting.

By-Laws-Carol Oram

- Carol submitted a by-law change which was approved by a vote of the Council. The by-law change reads as follows: *No person shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive years unless there is a majority vote of the COA to extend that person's term of office for a third year.*

Retreat Planning-Carol Oram

- Carol, Esther, Arletta and Ruth met to decide the format and agenda for the retreat on March 3, 2001 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Wingate. The Council approved having Louise O'Connor attend but rejected a motion to have the prospective new member of the Council included. We will do brainstorming in small groups with a facilitator and will review and assess past goals and achievements as well as new goals. Ruth read the list from the 1998 Retreat, and it was interesting to see how much has been accomplished.

New Business

- Judy Deutsch presented the draft of a letter to the editor of the Town Crier about tax deferral-changing the rate of interest charged and changing the income level for eligibility to match the Circuit Breaker levels. Changes were suggested and members will send their suggestions to Judy who will submit the letter to the Crier for next Thursday. She will sign it as a member of the Council.
- Ruth reported that Jan Silva wants an opposition statement to the Community Preservation Act written for the warrant. No one volunteered.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectively submitted,

Esther Mann