

Council on Aging Meeting
January 8, 2002

Members in Attendance:
Arletta Cioffari-Chairperson
Beverly Guild-Secretary
Clay Allen
Joe Bausk
Judy Deutsch
Catherine Kuras
Esther Mann
Ron Riggert

Also Attending:
Ruth Griesel, Director
June Allen

The meeting came to order at 7:10 pm.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved with two corrections.

Director's Report-Ruth Griesel

- The fourth grades have been at the Senior Center as part of the Bridges program. Everyone is enthusiastic.
- The Christmas Party at the Senior Center was larger than ever.
- The "Circuit Breaker" credit on state taxes is now in effect. A speaker from the Department of Revenue will be at the Senior Center on February 19th to explain how the "Circuit Breaker" works.

BayPath-report submitted by Louise O'Connor

- Ms. Alessandro reported that the Governor's budget was severely cut by the Legislature. BayPath Board members were asked to call the State House and encourage them to reconsider their vote. Not only will their vote affect the clients that are served but also the caregivers. The numbers of patients have increased and the costs of vendors have sky-rocketed. Ms. Alessandro is looking for ways to cut costs and to be more efficient. A daunting task! Al Norman will meet with EOEa to see what can be done.
- Mass Home Care is actively working to get Massachusetts to develop a plan to reinstitute the Olmstead Act as it is required to do. The Olmstead Act gives people the right to be served by home and community based services if they prefer that to nursing home placement when appropriate.

Accreditation/Self Assessment-Cioffari/Bausk/Mann

- The program was presented last night at the Selectmen's Meeting. The Selectmen were favorably impressed and want to be informed as to how things are going.

Tax Relief Committee-Deutsch/Riggert

- A presentation was made last night to the Selectmen. We questioned the process on how this goes before the Town Meeting if the interest rate should be changed. All agreed that the Council needs to be present at the Town Meeting and also go to various groups to get their support.

Spirituality/Saging Workshop (Update)-Kuras/Guild

- The Committee had a meeting with Liz David. Four sessions of two hours each have been planned for April. There will be a modest fee, and these workshops will be held at the Senior Center.

Financial Priorities of the C.O.A.-Ruth Griesel

- Ruth gave out the Town Manager's proposed budget for the Council on Aging. She relayed the fact that all departments had been asked to look deep into their budgets to see what might be cut further and notify the Town Manager as soon as possible. It is an extremely bleak picture. After much discussion, the following motion was made and passed: "We can cut the general expense line item from \$6,950 to \$4,000. The shortfall will be made up by increasing fees."

Auditing of Financial Statements-Griesel/Riggert

- No report. Joel Aaronson is still on vacation.

"Friends"

- Investment information will be obtained and will be presented to the "Friends" at the next meeting. The C.O.A. would like to inform them about the accreditation process at their next meeting.

Old Business

- We expect to invite Susan Ehrreich to our next meeting to discuss the future of Ball Room Dancing as a program sponsored by the C.O.A.

New Business

- Cay and Judy were appointed to the Nominating Committee. One new member of the C.O.A. Board and new officers will need to be nominated.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly B. Guild, Secretary