

TOWN OF SUDBURY
COUNCIL ON AGING
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 10, 2015

WEBSITE: <http://sudbury.ma.us/departments/CouncilOnAging/>

Present: Chairman: Jack Ryan

Members: Bob Diefenbacher, Patricia Tabloski, Phyllis Bially, Debra Galloway, Melissa Immonen, Alice Sapienza, Carmen Gentile, Barry David.

Excused: John Beeler

Guests: Chuck Woodward, Sudbury Board of Selectman
Bob May

Meeting called to order by Chair Jack Ryan at 3:10 PM

Minutes of November 12, 2015: Accepted.

Guest Chuck Woodward – Town facilities director has been looking for public space for the School Committee and a potential site has been found. That would free up some space for the Senior Center. Selectman will discuss and investigate further. Old police station will be a tear down. Question will go before town meeting in May to see if the town wants to save the property.

Directors Report – Galloway 1. Hot water leaked in one of the administrative offices. The carpet has been dried and the leak repaired. 2. Deb is preparing annual report and town meeting. We will review in January. 3. Deb met with town department heads regarding senior needs for Raytheon property. Key items transportation, volunteer services, medical equipment loan issues. National Development is coming to town to meet with Department Heads next week on 12/16 to further hear of needs. 4. Bridges program continues in February to Noyes. Senior volunteers needed.

Chairman's Report – Ryan

Senior Tax Relief passed by the House and bill has improved than to Rep. Gentile. Bill is good for 3 years and requires renewal only by majority vote at the town meeting in Sudbury. It is thought that the Senate will vote and pass this bill shortly.

Fairbank Community Center and Update – Financial pressures will continue to be placed on the town and we must continue to advocate for a new community center. Many don't realize that Seniors contribute to the town and pay significant taxes and it is our responsibility to ensure the needs of seniors are met. The Fairbanks Task Force has targeted the 60,000 sq. feet plan for the new Community Center and can be revised as needed to ensure future needs of seniors. Discussion ensued.

BayPath Liaison Report – Tabloski Highlights of the November Board Meeting were distributed. (See Attachment 1).

Transportation Committee – Sapienza/Galloway Presented a summary of the Sub-Committee’s work to date. See Attachment 2. The town pays a fee to the MBTA (\$200,000) pays the MWRTA for the van and driver. Any amount not spent remains with the MBTA. We have about \$80,000 left in this year’s assessment. The money could be used to expand the service including a fixed route that would cost about \$250,000. Disabled persons would be able to use “The Ride” (ADA type of van service) if they live within $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the fixed route. Additional options include: Expanded hours in the evening or weekend. Dial a Ride – outside agency services include expanded hours such as in Wayland. Many seniors are not aware of the services that are available. Discussion ensued regarding how to expand services with the additional \$80,000. Sub-committee will continue to meet over the next year to further develop the options.

Property Tax Work-off Program - Galloway – Minimum wage going to \$10/hr on Jan 1 so will request approval from Selectmen to increase rates. See Attachment 3. Letter approved.

Website Update – Diefenbacher. Will go live shortly and will include online registration for free events at the Senior Center. Training for Seniors to use the new registration system will begin in January. All users will need an email address. Only free events will be piloted first.

Remote Participation - Bially -Town guidelines draft presented. Discussion ensued. Recommendations include use of conference phone; people who dial in should do so infrequently; remote participation is approved at the discretion of the Chair; and requests for remote participation must be made 48 hours in advance. We are asked to comment on the draft guidelines. Motion to approve guidelines as written by Bially. Gentile seconded. Vote 4 for and 4 against. Motion tabled until next month.

Treasurer’s Report – Bially - Financial report distributed (See Attachment 3). Diefenbacher moves to accept; Gentile seconded. Motion accepted.

Police Station Use - Input will be sought.

Other Comments/Ideas – None

Set Date for next meeting – Thursday, January 14, 3PM.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Diefenbacher and seconded by Phyllis Bially.
Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Tabloski, COA Board Secretary