

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING
March 22, 2012

The Board of Directors of the Newburyport Council on Aging met on this date at the Salvation Army building.

Chairperson Frances Munroe called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Thomas Lyons	Cynthia Muir
Frances Munroe	Frances Reslewic
Jack Ronan	Martha True
Roseann Robillard,	Director Newburyport Council on Aging

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Charles Carroll	Excused
Richard Eaton	Excused
Jane Kelly	Excused
Helena Thurlow	Excused

GUEST:

Jo An Kincaid

The Secretary's minutes of February 16, 2012, were presented for approval.

There being no discussion, it was moved, seconded, and

VOTED: to accept the Secretary's minutes of the meeting of February 16, 2012 as presented.

SENIOR CENTER:

Chairperson Frances Munroe thanked Jo An Kincaid for her article in the Newburyport Daily News in support of the Senior Center.

Director Roseann Robillard distributed the latest draft from the architect showing the plans for the revised Newburyport Senior Center including:

1. The placement of the new structure, the building itself, parking lot, main entry, etc.
2. The inside of the ground floor and
3. The inside of the second floor.

The site would also allow space for soccer fields. Costs of renovating the present building; i.e. bringing the building up to code, would be prohibitive and now the proposed plan is to demolish the building and build a new one from the ground up. Discussion followed.

Jack Ronan again stressed the need to inform citizens of the current plans. Director Robillard explained that the information for seniors was presented in various locations and will be

presented again. The Port Pride Campaign which is working hard to stress the merits of the ballot questions on June 5th for the new Bresnahan School, the renovated Nock/Molin Schools and the Senior/Community Center will be hosting a kickoff and fundraiser on Thursday March 29th at 6:30 p.m. at Michael's Harborside. Discussion was held on "How would the funding affect the homeowners' real estate tax bill?"

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Director Robillard reported that a grant from the Mobility Assistance Program (MAD) has been applied for and approved for a new van to be shared with Salisbury. It will be delivered on March 26th. Salisbury COA will use the van on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; Newburyport COA will use it on Thursday and Friday. It will have a full tank of gas at pickup from Salisbury and will be returned with a full tank of gas.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Roseann spoke about the TV in the TV room at the Salvation Army which belongs to the COA. The room will be made into a teen lounge by the Salvation Army. It was moved, seconded and VOTED: to donate the TV to the Salvation Army for the teen lounge.

Roseann also spoke about the 95 members of the Massachusetts Army National Guard 182nd Engineering Company, Newburyport, being deployed to Afghanistan. A list of items for the Care Package Program such as hygiene products, food items, etc. is printed in the March COA Newsletter. This collection for the troops will be held during the month of April and the items may be brought to the COA office in the Salvation Army building.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Tax Help Program has been very effective this year. Appointments are booked through April 15th.

Pet Food donations continue – a list of the types of food needed will be provided by Carol Laroque, Animal Control Office.

U Mass Lowell's student project "Healthy Eating" on a Budget- "Cooking for One" will be held on Tuesday, May 15, and Thursday, May 17, at 10:00 a.m. A limit of 12 people each day will meet at the Council On Aging with a registered Dietitian to learn how to cook for one, how to read labels, and how to shop including a trip to Market Basket.

NEW BUSINESS:

Nominations for board members will be held at the April meeting of the Newburyport COA, elections will be held at the May meeting.

Congratulations were extended to our Director, Roseann Robillard, who was honored at the 10th annual Heroes Breakfast, hosted by the Northeast Chapter of the American Red Cross at the Danvers CoCo Key Hotel. Over 400 people attended. Roseann was one of 11 honorees being feted. The honored Heroes have either shown a sudden act of courage or over time, an accumulation of good deeds. Roseann was honored for her leadership and commitment to the Seniors of Newburyport above and beyond the call of duty and her dedication to the St. Vincent

de Paul Society Chapter at the Immaculate Conception Church in Newburyport helping the homeless and needy.

There being no further business it was moved, seconded and

VOTED: TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on April 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

Frances Reslewic, Secretary