

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING

September 15, 2011

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

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

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Carroll	Richard Eaton
Jane Kelly	Tom Lyons
Donald Miller	Frances Munroe
Frances Reslewic	Jack Ronan
Helena Thurlow	Martha True
Roseann Robillard, Director, Newburyport Council on Aging	

ABSENT:

Cynthia Muir

The Secretary's minutes of June 16, 2011, were presented for approval.

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

VOTED: to accept the Secretary's minutes of the meeting of June 16, 2011, as presented.

SENIOR CENTER:

Jack Ronan reported on the progress of the re-use of the Bresnahan School for a Senior Center. Jack attended the first meeting of the Commission for Reconfiguration of Bresnahan School called by Mayor Holladay. Members present were Roseann Robillard, Andy Port, Ed Ramsdell, Betty Sterns, Frances Munroe, Olga McFarland and Geordie Vining. Members absent were Mayor Holladay, Ed Cameron and Brian Derivan

Jack explained that the new Bresnahan School would be located on the property and that some of the existing school building would have to be cut off, depending if a one or two story building is constructed. Part of the old building would be saved for the senior center. This reconfiguration will involve the lengthy process of choosing another architect. Many very positive good ideas were presented.

The idea of the new school is that the money would come from Massachusetts sales tax and would be guaranteed. This money would include ½ the cost of the two buildings – Bresnahan and Molin. All City Councilors are in favor of this plan. Jack Ronan stated that this meeting was “most encouraging” and a “win, win, win situation. A win for the people, a win for the kids, and a win for the seniors.” The next meeting of the commission will be held on Wednesday, October 5th, 2011.

President Frances Munroe asked the COA Director, Roseann Robillard, for a report of the September 14th meeting of the City School Building Committee. The Director reported that Michael Sullivan, Director of the Office of Campaign and Political Finance (formerly Newburyport City Clerk) was invited to the meeting to discuss procedures for a debt exclusion vote. Sullivan gave the parameters of said vote.

At this meeting Michael Sullivan and Deidre Farrell, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, reviewed the process for Model School selection.

PROGRAM UPDATES:

Frances Munroe, President, reported that the Foxwood Trips have had a five year profit of \$11,210 from 2006 through 2010. The COA has broken even this year so far. President Munroe explained that these trips are designed for the benefit of seniors, not specifically as a fund raiser. Each member of the COA received a monthly report of income and expenses of the Foxwood Trips for the past 5 years and the current year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Director Robillard submitted her report on the COA 2012 Final Budget Approval which she explained in detail. She also explained her report of COA Monthly Activities including number of participants in each activity. A report of COA Incoming Calls for July 2010 to June 2011 was presented.

TRIAD:

On September 13, 2011, a program entitled "Newburyport Senior Safety Day" was held with 40 people attending at the Salvation Army gym. Activities included information regarding 911 calls presented by Police, Fire Fighters, Ambulance Personnel and Sheriff's Department. A canine Police Dog demonstration was a highlight of this very successful program.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jane Kelly distributed brochures advertising an event of the Friends of the Council on Aging. A Silent Auction will be held on Saturday, October 1st from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the Hope Church on Hale Street in Newburyport. Jane asked for people to come at 10:00 to help with the set-up. Items for donation will be welcome.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charles Carroll suggested that the COA have a guest attend our next meeting to update the Board re: the new City Charter which will be on the ballot at the next election in November. He wanted to bring awareness and a better understanding of the importance of the vote to each member of the COA Board. Director Robillard will set up a workshop regarding the City Charter.

A Sidewalk Advisory Board has been proposed by City Councilor Ed Cameron. The proposal included a member of the Council on Aging. Charles Carroll agreed to represent the Council on Aging if an advisory board is established.

There being no further business, it was moved seconded and
VOTED: to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next meeting will take place October 20, 2011, at 9:30 a.m.



Frances Reslewic, Secretary

Approved 10/27/11