

NEWBURYPORT COUNCIL ON AGING

April 19, 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 9:35 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Charles Carroll	Richard Eaton
Jane Kelly	Thomas Lyons
Cynthia Muir	Frances Munroe
Frances Reslewic	Jack Ronan
Martha True	
Roseann Robillard, Director Newburyport Council on Aging	

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Helena Thurlow	Excused
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GUEST:

Jo An Kincaid

The Secretary's minutes of March 22, 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 March 22, 2012 as presented.

SENIOR/COMMUNITY CENTER:

Charles Carroll reported on the last building committee meeting. Up-to-date plans were presented. As of this date the cost of each question on the ballot of June 5th is not known. The ballot will have no dollar amounts with the 3 questions. Jack Ronan and Chairperson Frances Munroe reported that a concern of people in the community is what the increase in their real estate taxes would be if they vote yes on the 3 questions on the June 5th ballot. Seniors are saying, "Can we pay an increase in our taxes and still be able to stay in our own homes?"

Charles Carroll spoke of the fact that the state will pay for 50% of the cost of the new buildings, the renovations and tearing down the existing school building. There are 240 cities and towns in Massachusetts in line to receive this financial assistance. If the citizens of Newburyport do not vote for this proposal Newburyport will go to the bottom of the line before being considered again.

Discussion included various ideas and suggestions for publicity. Richard Eaton and Cynthia Muir spoke about the importance of having the Senior Center be called Senior/Community Center. Some of the other suggestions were 1. emphasizing the facts, 2. posting meeting notices in Senior News, 3. inviting guests to COA meetings, 4. street signs, etc. Port Pride Community Building Campaign is planning neighborhood coffee klatches to get out the vote and there is a video being passed around.

Director Robillard gave an excellent presentation of the preliminary site plan.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Robillard reported that the Executive Office of Elder Affairs will conduct regional board trainings this spring. All board members are encouraged to attend. These informative programs cover a variety of subjects including the roles and responsibilities of board members, staff and volunteers, COA services and activities, and an overview of the MA aging network. Board members, COA Directors and "Friends of the COA" are welcome: Audience participation is strongly encouraged. The training will be conducted by Mr. Emmett Schmarsow, program manager for Councils on Aging and senior centers. The program is 2 ½ hours (with a short break). The Andover program on Thursday, May 24th, will run from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. with registration starting at 8:45 a.m. The Andover Senior Center is located at 36 Bartlet Street (Rear of Town Offices).

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion was made, seconded and

VOTED: to reappoint board members whose term is up this year.

Names placed in nomination for officers of the 2012-2013 year are:

Chairperson	Frances Munroe
Vice Chairperson	Charles Carroll
Secretary	Frances Reslewic

The election of officers will take place at the May 17, 2012, meeting.

Director Roseann Robillard reported that there are Farmers Market coupons available for persons 60 or older with low income. The coupons are distributed by the Merrimack Valley Nutrition Program in Dracut, Lawrence, Lowell and Methuen. Roseann is trying to get the M.V.N.P. to distribute the coupons in Newburyport.

Director Robillard reported that donations for soldiers are coming in well and pet food donations are also coming in. There is a notice in the COA newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Director Robillard passed out a flyer regarding the need for volunteers for the Chocolate Tour of Newburyport, a fundraiser for the American Red Cross being held on May 19, 2012, from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Volunteers will be assigned to a store in Newburyport where they will hand out samples of chocolate. Volunteers can call Diane @ 978-465-1285.

There being no further business it was moved, seconded and

VOTED: TO ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on May 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

Frances Reslewic, Secretary