

TOPSFIELD COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
NEW TOWN HALL, 461 BOSTON ST., TOPSFIELD, MA
MAIN CONFERENCE ROOM, MARCH 20, 2018 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Jolene Guerra, Elaine Crippen, Lynne Bermudez, Bette Cullinan, Martha Davis, Florence Brady, Ruth Lucy, Penny Rogers, Charlotte O'Toole

OTHERES: Paula Burke, Director of theTopsfield COA; Kathy Faust, Friends of the COA Liaison.

I. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2018 BOD MINUTES: Approved 9 Ayes; 0 Nays.

II. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Regarding **Recent Events**:

- Thank you's to Lynne and Bette for another Dementia Friends informational session that was held at the library on 3/19. About 40 more Topsfield residents attended the training.
- A floral arranging class led by Andy was very popular and showed the creative side of our seniors. Andy also showed a slideshow of his garden designs at Endicott Estate.
- Dance out Dementia, led by Maggie Chiffer, continues to be very well attended and fun each week at Trinity on Thursday afternoons.
- Snowstorms caused some events to be postponed. The tour of the town hall renovation is now scheduled for April 11th at 3:30.
- The Boston Flower Show was a bit disappointing because of the dominance of vendors. Local flower shows offer better venues for next year.
- The trip to the Essex County Regional Emergency Communications Center was reassuring. The regional center qualifies for more equipment than single towns. Four towns now participate. The command center where 911 calls from Topsfield are answered and training rooms were shown. The state may take it over.
- AARP slots for tax help are going well.
- COA is partnering with RSVP to allow seniors to be matched with meaningful volunteer activities.

Upcoming Events include:

- Over 25 already signed up for the overnight trip (4/16-17) to the US Coast Guard Academy, including visits to Olde Mistick Village and Mohegan Sun Resort.
- SeniorCare and the Friends of the COA will sponsor Lunch 'n Learn: "The Mind Diet" on May 26. Following the lunch, at 1:30, Lynne Bermudez and Bette Cullinan will provide a Dementia Awareness session. Topsfield Fire Dept. will receive First Responder Dementia Training from the Alzheimer's Assoc. on April 2nd.
- On June 21st, a celebration for the 45th anniversary of COA is being planned. Two members from the BOD will be assisting the Friends in the planning: Charlotte O'Toole and Florence Brady.
- The Memory Cafe has moved back to Mary MacDonald's Rest-Stop-Ranch at 202 Haverhill Rd., and will be held there outdoors once/month until November.

- Senior Care and River Bend are sponsoring a documentary film on the final year of Glen Campbell's life called "I'll Be Me". This event is free and will be shown at the Cabot Theater in Beverly on 4/3. The bus will transport those interested in attending.
- Because of the regulated use of marijuana changing in July, some informational sessions for seniors may be scheduled though COA.
- Monthly shopping shuttle to Seabrook has been added to the shopping options.

Outreach:

- COA currently has over 80 volunteers including the BOD, TRIAD, Friends, Meals on Wheels, Scoop assemblers, etc. A volunteer appreciation event will be planned for sometime in May. May try to tie in a Dementia Friendly info session before or after that event.
- Topsfield Finance Committee denied a request for \$400 to defray the postage costs for the newsletter. May need to combine July and August issues. Paula reports that there is no private space in the town hall addition for her to have a place to meet with seniors to discuss confidential needs. A small closet space may be available. The present design has Paula sharing office space with Beth and Peg.
- Trinity will be rented for COA activities through the end of 2018.
- COA, in partnership with local organizations like the Tri Town Council, Rotary, Historical Society, etc, received a Tufts Foundation Grant Intergenerational Grant to promote programming for seniors and young children. Many activities are already in place like the Friends and Family Dinners. Ongoing training and collaboration with other town agencies will be pursued.
- COA will have 2 interns through the summer months. Maggie Chiffer will continue with the Dance Out Dementia sessions, help with the newsletter format, etc. Dylan Campbell, a Masco student who loves computers, will spend time with the COA as part of his senior internship.
- The cancellation policy for COA has been difficult this winter. If school is cancelled, there are no COA activities, but if there is a 2 hr. delay or early release, people need to check the town website. Shopping or other essential services may remain in place if safe to do so.

III. FRIENDS LIAISON REPORT:

- The next fundraiser will be at Texas Roadhouse on April 26th.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- The Dementia-Friendly Community update: Close to 100 people in Topsfield have already attended an informational session. Local meetings will take place in April, May, October, and November. Community members in Rowley and Georgetown have expressed interest in attending information sessions. TRIAD is also interested in seeing how they can support "Dementia Friendly Topsfield".
- Nomination Committee: a potential new board member will sit in on the next board meeting on April 10th.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- No vote taken on a new board member.

Motion made and seconded with all in favor to adjourn the meeting at 5:15 PM.

Next meeting of the COA Board is on April 10, 2018 at 4:00 in the Conference Room of the New Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Charlotte O'Toole, Recording Secretary

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