

**Ashland Council On Aging
September 1, 2016**

Guests: Susan Wells, Steve Mitchell, Kim Kotab, & Joanne Duffy

Board Members: Izzy Assencoa, Ed Brudz, James Zebrowski, Arthur Caya, Alice Smart, Carol Love, Diane Hanson and Alexis Christopher

Absent: Barbara Thorenson

Meeting called to order at 10:05 AM.

Izzy thanked Diane Hanson for her service as Secretary and welcomed Ed as the new Secretary, Jim as the new Vice Chairman and welcome extended to Alexis Christopher as the new COA Board Member. The August meeting minutes were read and a motion was made by Arthur and seconded by Jim to accept the August 4 Meeting minutes

Citizen Participation

Diane raised the issue of expiration of her Term of Office. Steve Mitchell indicated the COA Directors terms are staggered but all expire in August. The Directors position would be extended another term unless the Director indicates he/she is unwilling to serve.

Issues and Discussions:

Jim raised the issue of Massachusetts Tax Revenue being down and State budget cuts may result in the cuts in funding some Baypath programs. Sue Wells indicated there may be Budget Cuts but those are unknown. The cuts would not affect Meal on Wheels program but Home Health and Aid to the Poor may be affected. These programs are determined by the 2010 Federal Poverty Level Census. Sue says 2775 individuals on 2010 census but now the need has risen to 3441 in 2016. Joanne will check the MASS COA Website and bug them for action. Jim to write a memo to the BOS to voice Ashland COA funding concerns and present it to the COA for review at the October meeting. Izzy will invite Karen Spilka to a COA meeting to discuss budget cut problems. Joanne to invite Fran Bakstran to the Oct or Nov COA meeting to express our needs.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Alice indicated she would like to see some new programs offered for seniors like Mystery Novels or Poetry reading. Joanne indicated she would have to check for room availability and her coordinator's Schedule (Kim leaves at 1 PM). Jim would like to see Morning Breakfasts or coffee and donuts offered as other Senior Centers do. Joanne said breakfast or Coffee must not interfere with scheduled programs or Meals on wheels use of the kitchen and also noted that there is currently no funding for this.

Outreach Report

91 clients served last month with 3 new clients. Hot lunches will begin again at the Middle School September 6th and meals served at 12:40. Price remains at \$1. Surplus food from the food pantry was donated to the Park Road Apartments. Fuel Assistance added 7 new families for a total of 192 Clients served. Root beer Float at Ashland House was a success and may be expanded to Park Road Apts. Diane asked if a List of New Programs was available and Sue said not yet.

Directors Report:

Summer is just about over and Joanne had no real issues. The new AC has been installed and heat problem corrected in the Kitchen. The Elevator had jammed between floor and the elevator people were fixing the problem. The men's bathroom floor needs repair and walls need paint. Collection of items for the Friends yard sale at Ashland Day will be accepted the Friday before and stored in the back of the Country Store. The Celebration of Life for Senior 80 and older will take place Sept 26. 430 invitations were sent out and 150 people max expected. Kim would like volunteers for setup of tables and Serving the Pot Roast and Mashed Potato meal. Entertainment will be "Music over the Years". A fire Drill training for Community Center Staff by Sgt Ed Berman to include practice fire Drill(s), Telephone distress Calls, etc. Hoarding at residences in town was voiced as a fire safety and health concern and will be addressed in the future. Ed brought up that there was no sign or directory where the Senior Center was located and how to get to other areas located in the Community Center. Joanne to address this with Town Manager Mike Herbert. Sue says the Baypath Home Care program is pushed to the limit and she has a wait list. Those with a dire need will get top priority. "Wait Welcome Basket" program to provide a gift basket from town merchants to newcomers to Ashland will be passed on to the Friends to see if there is any interest them buying a basket and advertising.

Joanne indicated the door on the east side of the Center will be locked from outside entry but can be opened from the inside in case of emergencies. Visitors should use the main entrance to gain access to the Senior Center.

Around the Table:

Izzy reminded us the Ashland Historical Society is putting on a "Ghost Walk" at Simpson Jones burial grounds on 9/25. Jim asked if the Senior Center could be open evenings for special events, etc. Joanne indicated there is no money in the budget to keep the Center open after 3:30 PM. Steve Mitchell indicated that if there was a need then the COA should justify and write a request for funding to the BOS so it could be put into the budget.

A motion was made by Alice and seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting at 11:40.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Brudz