

**Ashland Council On Aging  
February 2, 2017**

**Guests:** Susan Wells, Joanne Duffy, Board of Selectman Steve Mitchell, Asst Town Manager Jenna Ball

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

**Absent:** Barbara Thorenson

**Meeting called to order at 10:02 AM.**

The December 1 Meeting Minutes were reviewed by each COA member and a motion was made by Alexis and seconded by Carol to accept the Minutes. There was no January COA Meeting.

**Citizen Participation**

Laurie Tosti discussed her School Activities and Outreach Programs and free programs for seniors – Football Games, Plays, Etc.

Jen Ball Asst Town Mgr discussed the need for a Strategy for Ashland town Development for the next 20 years and plans for a common direction and goals to attain them. The website [ashlandfocus2035@ashlandmass.com](mailto:ashlandfocus2035@ashlandmass.com) has been setup to get inputs for the Smart-Safe-Sustainability Program and she encourages Ashland residents to access the website and make their concerns known. The Interim Position of Intake Specialist has been posted and 130 applicants have applied to date. Two new offices will be built in the rear of the Game Room for the Intake Specialist and Kara

Steve Mitchell discussed the Mass Municipal Business Conference Workshop where mental health, dementia, etc were discussed.

Izzy said the Greater Ashland Lions visit with other Lions Chapters to trade ideas and improve operations and suggested the Ashland COA do likewise. Izzy also sees Senior Volunteers as the strength of the Ashland Community.

**Issues and Discussions:**

**None**

**Old Business:**

**None**

**New Business:**

**Izzy invited the COA members for Training on new changes in procedures to the Mass Open Meeting Law (OML) and will be mandatory for all Ashland Municipal employees. The Session will be start at**

**6:30 on Thursday Feb 16 and will last about 1.5 hours. Town Counsel Lisa Meade will conduct the training.**

**Ed thanked the 4 COA and FCOA volunteers who helped with the distribution of Christmas toys and Turkeys for some 70 – 75 needy residents on December 21th. Thanks again to Ed Brudz, Cathy Zilioli, Ro Beatin and Carol Love who helped Cara Tirrell make this important project a success.**

**Steve Mitchell talked of a BOS Breakfast at 8:30 AM on Saturday February 25. The breakfast is free and open to all town volunteers. Letters of invitation will be sent out.**

**Jim asked about an update on COA Training. Joanne Duffy said she will advise but thinks it will take place in March or April.**

**Outreach Report:**

147 clients served last month with 5 new clients. 85 Hot lunches were served at the Middle School during January. The Two Together Program is progressing with 3 volunteers and 1 participant to date. The Two Together Program seeks more participants. Sue Wells will invite Sue Longmoore of Baypath to promote a Dementia Friendly Community at an upcoming meeting and 2 instructors will conduct a special class for Caregivers of all diseases.

**Directors Report:**

Seniors made 1638 visits to the Center in January (Increase of 362 from Dec). The FCOA Holliday Party will held Dec 14 with 75 people. The Community Center was closed Dec 26 thru Jan 2. Upcoming events: Super Bowl Party Feb 7; Charlie Card Tickets Mar 6; Heritage St. Patrick's Lunch Mar 16. Property Tax Work off Program of \$11/hr – 68 hours/yr = \$750 has more openings. Income Tax Preparing will start Tuesday & Thursdays in Feb thru March and Computer room will be closed to the public those days. Joanne has 2 Laptops that can be checked out and used during those periods. Two Assisted Hearing Devices have been purchased with a 75% grant and with 25% FCOA funding. A motion was made by Alexis and seconded by Jim to accept the Directors Minutes.

**Around the Table:**

**None**

Motion was made by Diane and seconded by Jim to adjourn the meeting at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Brudz - Secretary COA