

## **Acton Council on Aging Board Meeting Minutes for 9/12/2011**

**Present:** Barbara Tallone, Chair; Charlie Aaronson, Vice Chair; Barbara Willson, Secretary; Ann Corcoran, Treasurer; Sharon Mercurio, Director; Steve Baran; Pat Ellis; Jim Papachristos; Sally Thompson; Paul Turner; Mike Gowing, Liaison Board of Selectmen; Norma Wu, Liaison Friends of the COA.

**Absent:** Sgt. Ray Grey, Liaison Police Department.

### **Call To Order: Barbara Tallone**

The meeting was called to order by Barbara Tallone at 3:42 on 9/12 2011 at the Senior Center.

### **Items Distributed at meeting or available electronically:**

Agenda for September COA meeting

Minutes of the June COA Board meeting

Director's Report

Chairman's Statement of Goals for 2011 presented at the Town Planning Meeting

FY12 COA Budget

FY11 COA Budget

### **Review of the Minutes of June, 2011**

The minutes of the June meeting were accepted with the following addition:

#### **Officers and Members for 2011-12**

Barbara Tallone, Chair	3 year term
Charlie Aaronson, Vice Chair	3 year term
Barbara Willson, Secretary	2 year term
Ann Corcoran, Treasurer	2 year term
Steve Baran	2 year term
Sally Thompson	1 year term
Pat Ellis	1 year term
Paul Turner	1 year term
Jim Papachristos	1 year term

### **Chairman Report: Barb Tallone**

Chairman Tallone presented three committee goals for 2011 at the Town of Acton Committee Planning Meeting. 1) to develop a long term strategic plan for the COA which will help in transition from Board to Board 2) to establish a small group effort within the Board to track any type of federal, state or local legislation of programs that might affect senior citizens 3) to begin a program to recognize the many volunteers that make the senior center invaluable to our seniors in many unseen areas.

**Director Report: Sharon Mercurio**

Director Mercurio attended many department and planning meetings during the summer including but not limited to the Senior Center Building Committee and Acton Action meetings. She attended training sessions for Emergency Planning, Drug Screening for LRTA, and hosted training for “Cloud” software. Prior to hiring a new Outreach Coordinator, Beverly Hutchins, she assumed the responsibilities of that worker. Ms Hutchins will work 20 hours/week beginning September 19, 2011 and transition to 40 hours/week. The Formula allocation budget was submitted with effort to increase the amount of money per senior. Improvements in the property included a new floor in the dining area, repair of the storage shed, replacement of the HVAC system and installation of a new sound system. Upcoming programs can be found in the September newsletter which approximately 15 % of seniors now receive electronically.

**Senior Center Building Committee: Sharon Mercurio**

This committee is preparing to present a request for \$300,000 for further planning and consultation at the next Town Meeting. Acton 2020 is holding an Open Meeting for the public on October 12 to seek input on a community center. The following position statement was unanimously approved:

**The Acton COA Board supports a new Senior Center based on the Senior Center Expansion Report completed on January 2009 and currently being updated. The Center will be focused on the needs of seniors and available for the broader community’s use outside of the hours of Senior Center programs.**

Paulina Knibbe, Acton 2020 member, is scheduled to update COA regarding this issue at the next meeting. Members should attend the October 12 Acton 2020 public meeting and support the COA Board position statement.

**Vice Chair Report: Charlie Aaronson**

Work on the Mission statement is progressing.

**Treasurer Report: Ann Corcoran**

2 sheets distributed. FY11 Non Personnel total was \$18,042 for the 4 quarters. FY12 Non Personnel total was \$21,496. It was noted that postage and printing costs increased and that newsletters continued to be mailed to about 85% of Acton seniors.

**Liaison Board of Selectmen: Mike Gowing**

The Joint Legislative Committee will hear testimony regarding the Senior Tax Relief bill (H3466) on Thursday 9/15 at the State House. The bill to freeze senior’s taxes (S1443) is currently in committee. Acton will hold a session on Open Meeting Law on Thursday 9/15 at the High School. The reduction in need has promoted Acton to join Westford in a regional hire of a Veteran’s Agent. The Nursing Service, Senior Center staff and Emergency Medical Service are planning ahead in the aftermath of hurricane Irene. The Senior Center was set up as a shelter if needed, but may need a generator installed. Seniors should be notified (newsletter) to register cell phones with the town if they no longer have a land-based phone.

**Liaison Friends of COA: Norma Wu**

The Friends of the COA continue organizational work for the Holiday Fair scheduled for Saturday, November 5, 2011 at the Senior Center. It will include a boutique, craft tables and foods. Donations are welcome.

**Liaison Police Department: Sgt. Ray Grey**

Sgt Grey is absent. No report.

**Liaison Minuteman Senior Services: Charlie Aaronson**

No report as meetings were not held during the summer.

**New Business:**

All agreed to supply lunch at the Senior Center in December, 2011

**Adjournment-Next Meeting: Barbara Tallone**

The meeting adjourned at 5:02. The next meeting will be Monday October 3, 2011 at 3:45 P.M. at the Senior Center.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Barbara Willson, Secretary**