

***Foxboro Council on Aging and Human Services
Board Meeting October 20, 2011***

Present: Chairperson Joanne Pratt, Director Vicki Lowe, Wendy Haney, Jeanne, Bonneau, Lloyd Gibbs, Elaine Biggieri and Ann Alibrandi

Absent/Excused: Vivian Pitts, Colin Haney, Jerry Norwood and Ed O' Leary ex-officio

Meeting called to order at 5:00

Budget: Spending is on track. The staff had a mandatory training that we had to arrange van coverage for, which is the only unusual spending we've had in Salaries budget. We have extra money left in encumbrances (\$582.83); the majority of the bills from the work are in. (spent \$2973.88). There may be additional charges for asphalt.

Director's Report: Your folder contains a copy of an email from Town Clerk Bob Cutler. Everyone must go online and complete this ethics training. Be sure to type your name when you start the process so that it will appear on the last page which is a verification sheet for Bob that you have completed the training. Elaine will collect these sheets from everyone and we will turn them in all together. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter

Vicki attended a grant writing program in Boston in Sept. Vicki has completed a very competitive grant application for staff trainings and to create a resource directory. The applications are due next week. They will be announcing awards in mid December. Whatever happens, Vicki said it was good to be able to practice the skills from the workshop. They will split \$10,000 between 3 COAs, a total of \$3,333.00 per award. Vicki stated she sent the grant application early with the hope that it would be looked at more carefully.

Half of the staff and Wendy have completed the mandatory 'Darkness to Light' training. The next training will be on Friday 10/28 at 9:00 at the PS building. The training is about being aware of the prevalence of child sexual abuse, looking at situations with a critical eye where children are involved (personally or professionally) and the importance of having policies in place to protect children. All volunteers including Board members are encouraged to attend.

The annual Massachusetts Council on Aging (COA) conference was this month. Vicki was a presenter on a panel with 2 other COA directors. Vicki and the other Directors have been asked to do the presentation again at the Mass Municipal Association conference in Jan 2013. We spoke about Human Services and the importance of municipalities adequately funding COA so that we can meet the needs of the growing senior population.

All Dept. Heads will attend a 2 day team building workshop at Stonehill College next Tuesday..

We had our annual resource review meeting with the schools on Monday.

We will be having our next town department network meeting on Wednesday Nov. 30 at 9am at HESSCO. This meeting will be a dementia sensitivity training. This is to train people who go into the home how to recognize and this important problem with aging seniors.

Programs:

- The Fuel Assistance program begins on 11/1/11. Noreen & Ken will be busy with apps.
- Our 'evening summer cookouts' have turned into 'supper club'. The next one is set for Nov. 3. I will poll the group to see if they would like to have a break as it starts to get dark.
- We are having a couple of cardiac programs coming up from Brigham & Women and Norwood Hospital.
- Today was the last day of French class. The satisfaction surveys were very positive.

- We unveiled the Yellow Dot initiative through TRIAD. Joe Canavan from Norfolk County Sheriff's Office will be here to take pictures (on 11/4) that will be on the documents people will have in their glove box. This will help to know what medications a person is taking in case of an accident. The documents will be distributed at November TRIAD meeting. The process can continue throughout the year.
- Our Veterans' Day celebration will be on Mon. 11/14. Trooper Dan Clark will perform. We will serve a continental breakfast.
- We will host 'Coffee & Conversation with Town Officials' starting on 11/15 the Town Official for that date is Kevin Paicos from 9:30 to 10:30
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Human Services report: in folders

Old Business: Kevin felt that the Senior Center building project should not be a Warrant Article for the Special Town Meeting in December. Possibly for the annual meeting next May.

December COA /HS Board meeting canceled.

The Trip Committee advised us that 35 people have signed up to go to San Antonio in April.

New Business: HESSCO, Tenney reported that the main concern of HESSCO was their budget along with the following issues:

- 1) Not enough housing
- 2) Disabled tenants in Senior Housing have been causing trouble because of the difference in ages
- 3) Transportation for treatment to out of area difficult to receive, Tenney said that Senator Timilty and Jay Barrows were looking into this matter
- 4) The need for grab bars being installed in people homes

Tenney also stated that they are having a Free Dental Clinic for Seniors and also having fund raising events.

Paul Dumas has been appointed to the HESSCO advisory board.

Friends of Foxboro Seniors Report: The annual pie making will take place on November 12th. Dick Thompson has been in the hospital and these plans will be finalized within the week. The matter of the staff collecting money for Friends was again addressed. The staff should not collect money for any fund raising activity. The Friends need to be put in place a policy regarding collection of funds.

Citizen Input: Paul Dumas asked about the scheduling problem of Bingo game and the Discussion Group. He also praised the free lunch at Chickie Flynn restaurant and inquired how frequently we went because he said it seems as though that there were groups from Walpole every time he went there at lunch time. Vicki advised him that we were invited monthly. Paul also said that there were empty seats from our group and if people did not come, they should be calling. This would allow another person to come as there is always a waiting list.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Alibrandi