

**Foxborough Council on Aging and Human Services
Board Meeting January 15, 2015**

Present: Director-Vicki Lowe, Chairperson-Joanne Pratt, Vice chairperson-Lloyd Gibbs, Vivian Pitts, Wendy Haney, Betty Travers, Millie Greene, Collin Haney, Bob Murphy, and HESSCO Rep.-Helen Rice

Absent/Excused: Ann Alibrandi

The meeting was called to order by Joanne Pratt at 5pm.

Minutes: The minutes from the November 20, 2014 meeting were approved as written.

Budget Report:

Budget meetings have started and Vicki will be meeting with the Advisory Committee on Wednesday, January 21st at 8pm. Vicki stated she does not have any needs in terms of staffing. She has asked for an additional 3,300 dollars for the operating budget as there are Verizon expenses for a wireless hotspot and for more supplies for our programs. With Centralized Maintenance coming in FY'16, 17,800 dollars was transferred from our budget for utilities and building maintenance. The request for the driveway expansion is being transferred to the Central Maintenance department and Chris Gallagher, from the Highway Department, will take charge of the project. However, Vicki will explain this request to the Advisory Committee at her budget meeting. Tony, from maintenance at the School Department, will take charge of getting us a new furnace for the front of the building when the old one needs replacement.

Director's Report:

Staffing-There have been many staffing challenges since last September due to illness, injury, and surgeries. Ken will be retiring on February 27th. There will be a farewell open house for Ken on February 26th from 11:30am to 1pm. Vicki has arranged with HESSCO for the meal site to be at the Senior Center that day so those from the meal site can attend the open house. There will be a sign up for those people attending the lunch portion so that HESSCO will have a head count. The suggested donation for lunch is 3 dollars. The job description is posted for Ken's replacement and an ad will be in the Sun Chronicle this week. The position is for 35 hours with 29 hours being paid for by the town and the rest being paid with grant money.

Senior Tax Work Off-Tax credits have been applied to those who have completed their hours. The average credit was around 780 dollars after taxes were withheld. Many people have completed their jobs. There are still eighteen people working and a pool of forty seven people waiting for jobs. The applications are rotated. Chris will be putting an

ad in the paper giving the details of the program to see if anyone would be interested in being added to the pool. That information is always on our website and in the town service brochures and the Human Services Guide (consumer edition) created by Vicki and Ken. Department heads can make the call about accepting someone from the pool that is next in line or opting for a person with a special skill in lei of training another person.

Program Highlights-

*Computer classes with Eric Anderson, running from November through January, have been enthusiastically received. Eric created My Senior Software and volunteers his time to run the class. He even created a mouse with a larger ball so people with limited fine motor skills will have an easier time using the mouse.

*The holiday parties were a great success. One hundred and sixty two attended the party at Lake Pearl and eighty plus attended the party at the Senior Center.

New Senior Center Programs-

*The AMP Financial Fitness program, which is funded by a 2500 dollar grant, has been well received. There will be three classes, the second being today (Jan. 15th). Thirty four seniors have signed up for the program and have received workbooks and will receive gift cards at the end of the program. The presenters have been very informative.

*The History Lecture series has been well received. Two out of three lectures have been completed.

*The Foxboro Regional Charter School classes started this week. Thirty three seniors signed up for the classes. The seniors were divided into two groups, one in the computer lab. and the other for classroom instruction on other devices. The students give the seniors instruction on the devices. The program will last for eight weeks. We are transporting the students in the van to and from the school.

*The Foxwoods trip will be on February 26th. There are forty five people signed up. The cost of the trip is 25 dollars. The bus will be leaving St. Mary's parking lot at 7:45am.

Human Services-

*In spite of a lot of time off and transitional changes this year, the caseload size is up by almost 10%. In 2013 we served four hundred and three clients and in 2014 we served four hundred and thirty eight clients. Seventy percent of the clients are sixty years of age or older.

*There will be another Foxboro Linked Together and Hoarding Task Force meeting on January 28th.

HESSCO Report:

Helen Rice gave us the latest HESSCO report. She stated that at the December meeting they gave awards to deserving HESSCO workers. HESSCO conducted a survey of around 300 people and around 200 responded. Ninety percent of those who

responded said that there has been an improvement in services. HESSCO has served approximately 10,000 more meals this year. Fundraising for HESSCO is on track and they are reaching their goals for contributions. All of HESSCO's contracts are up and they will be taking bids in the spring. Also, they will be hiring new staff in the spring.

Friends of Foxboro Seniors:

Paul Dumas, chairperson of the Friends, gave us a report on the Friend's latest activities. He stated that a Valentine Tea had been scheduled for Saturday, February 14th. He stated that at the next Friends meeting (Jan. 16th) he would give a full report on questions raised about the IRS and the Friend's Charter. He stated that he and some of his board had met with a lawyer and the Friend's accountant and things look favorable.

Vicki asked for a discussion concerning the Valentine's Tea planned by the Friend's. She stated that she had perceived that the Tea was a fundraising event and discovered that it was not. She thought that the roles of the Friends and the COA were being confused. After more discussion a vote was taken to approve the Valentine's Day Tea to take place at the Foxboro Senior Center on February 14th. Joanne Pratt and Vivian Pitts will be representing the COA and the Friend's will be paying for the event. It was approved unanimously.

Old Business:

none

New Business:

none

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Haney