

## **BARNSTABLE COUNCIL ON AGING MONTHLY MEETING**

825 Falmouth Rd, Hyannis, MA 02601

Minutes: December 17, 2014

Meeting Minutes Submitted by Taylor D. Cobb, Vice President

(P = Present A = Absent E = Excused)

Members: B. Burke \_P\_ R. Burke \_P\_ T. Cobb \_P\_ B. Cross \_P\_ P. Curley \_P\_ K. Evans \_A\_ H. Kennedy \_A\_ E. Letterie \_P\_ T. Pelish \_P\_ E. Rollins \_P\_ H. Stretch \_A\_ A. Tromba \_P\_ H. Bodensiek \_P\_ M. Collins \_P\_ Alternate \_V\_ Associate: J. Melpignano \_P\_ Associate: \_V\_ TCL: S. Cushing \_A\_ FBCOA: G. Sylvester \_P\_ Director: M. Noonan \_P\_

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am. There was a quorum. The minutes from the previous meeting were accepted and approved.

### **Presidents Report**

The SC holiday dinner was held on December 12, 2014. Turnout from members of the COA was poor. The president encourages participation from COA members in events at the SC. COA members were reminded that attendance and participation in SC events is expected as a part of their membership on the COA. Welcome to new COA member M. Collins, who was voted onto the council at the most recent town council meeting.

### **Communications**

The official resignation from the current COA treasurer, H. Bodensiek has been received. This resignation is effective December 31, 2014. The COA thanks H. Bodensiek for his service.

### **Directors Report**

The SC holiday dinner experienced an overall poor turnout from the public. Since 2012, attendance has dropped from approximately 130 in 2012, to 91 in 2013 and was down to 70 in attendance at the 2014 dinner. The director attributes this drop in attendance to a rollover in members at the SC. Many of the long time members who have been active participants in events at the SC are becoming unable to attend due to a multitude of reasons including declining health. The SC is now seeing an influx of new members at the SC. Overall attendance at the SC remains high, however attendance at special events seems to be affected. The COA discussed ways to improve upon future holiday events and brainstormed ways to foster attendance in the future.

The Senior Compass Newsletter has been re-designed and improved. High praise has been received by those who have reviewed the changes. The newsletter is now titled "The Compass" in hopes that the stigma associated with the word "Senior" will be removed and the SC newsletter will appeal to a younger audience and inform boomers of events at the senior center. A crossword puzzle and Sudoku puzzle has

been added. “The Compass” continues to be a work in progress and improvements are expected in the future, as this is the primary marketing tool for the SC.

Utilization of the on-line registration process for classes at the senior center continues to be low at approximately 7%. The budget request for the upcoming fiscal year will include monies for a smart-phone application, which would allow registration for events from mobile devices. No monies from the existing budget will be allocated to further this project. Future budget requests will include monies to fund the outreach coordinator position to 37 hours per week up from 30 hours per week, and a capitol fund request to install an emergency generator at the SC to be used in case of power failure. Other budget requests will be on hold until the needs assessment has been completed.

The needs assessment is entering phase II in January. This phase will include the development of a survey that will be mailed to residents in the town. The survey is scheduled to go out in April of 2015. In addition to the development of a survey, informational interviews with local leaders will take place early in phase II as well.

The solar array has not been completed as of yet. NStar has been on site to install equipment necessary for the solar array to be commissioned and activated. Updates to this project will be forthcoming.

The SC received a grant from the Cape Cod 5 Cents Saving Bank Charitable Foundation in the amount of \$3600.00. This money will be utilized to assist the “brown bag” program, which supplements the food budgets of senior citizens by providing a bag of groceries each month. This grant is expected to help supplement the program for approximately 3 additional years.

The odor on the lower level of the SC continues to be an issue. Investigation has been done to determine the cause, however no definitive source has been identified. The odor has been deemed non-toxic by the town DPW. The SC and town departments continue to work in tandem to solve the situation. Updates will be forthcoming.

The construction of the parking lot expansion is on schedule to be completed in the fall of 2015.

The “Turkey Trot” at the end of November was a successful event that delivered approximately 125 meals to seniors.

Turbulence continues to surround certain club meetings at the SC. The director continues to remind the clubs who utilize the senior center that they are expected to be welcoming and inclusive to the public in accordance with the terms agreed upon for utilizing the space.

### **Committee Reports**

**Outreach Committee:** The outreach committee report was postponed until January 12, 2015. The outreach committee will have an update at the next COA meeting.

**Building Committee:** The building committee has been working to resolve issues with utilization of the space previously designated the library area. This area was intended to be allocated as the “Cross

Wellness Information Center” however, the naming of the space and its intended purpose has been recently questioned. The building committee continues to discuss how best to utilize this space to benefit the member of the SC. The building committee will provide an update at the next scheduled COA meeting.

The Bylaws Committee and Activity Committee will meet prior to the next scheduled COA meeting and will provide a report. COA members were provided with a copy of the current bylaws and were instructed to review them prior to the January meeting.

### **FBCOA Liaison Report**

The officers for the FBCOA for 2015 have been elected. The same officers will be in place in the new year.

### **Old Business**

A new client communications tool was proposed to assist in documenting and tracking member complaints at the senior center. J. Hope proposed that he act as a volunteer ombudsman at the SC and be available by appointment to meet with members and assist in resolving issues. J. Hope will give a presentation on this proposal at the next scheduled COA meeting.

### **New Business**

P. Curley requested that a volunteer come forward to replace H. Bodensiek as secretary for the COA. P. Curley will communicate with each COA member individually and will actively seek appointment of a new secretary to be voted upon at the January meeting.

A motion was made and approved to adjourn at 10:40 am.

Next Meeting January 15, 2015 @ 9:00 am.