

COA Board Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, March 8

Present: Arthur Alcaez, Phebe Downey, Margaret Hoag, Ann Schummers, Jan Kenneally, Meryl Schwartz, Patty Keane, Murray Nicholson, Pam Hanson, Sharyn Lenhart, Ginger Quarles, COA Director.

February Minutes were passed unanimously.

The April meeting date is changed to Tuesday, April 19 at 5:30 to avoid possible conflict with town meeting.

The Long Range Planning Committee needs a volunteer who would represent town seniors.

The COA Board voted unanimously in favor of Town Meeting Warrant Article 8 to Establish a Concord Senior Means-Tested Property Tax Exemption.

1. Ginger presented COA Budget Review. Discussion included the need to get COA salaries up to the standard wage paid for each job description and to also get more hours to keep up with the demand for more services for clients. Also discussed: the fact that the COA will soon need a new Van, most likely a second accessible van. The Gift Account is the only place that van and lunch donations can be put, the Gift Shop proceeds go into this as well but are tracked separately. The COA does not have a revolving account, so the Rec. Dept.'s revolving fund is used for COA trips.
2. Minuteman Senior Services Liaison Report – Margaret Hoag. MMHC is searching for new director, 6 people are being interviewed. MMHC board meetings have a “Mission Moment” that highlights program successes. There is a new program “Money Follows the Person” which MMHC oversees. This involves using funds to help seniors stay at home by providing home modifications, assisted technology, etc.
3. Concord Housing Authority – no report
4. COA Historian Report – no report
5. Disability Committee Liaison – Meryl Schwartz. The Committee would like to have input from the COA on senior mental health issues. Ginger said that COA outreach workers receive in-service training on senior mental health issues like depression and suicide. Lahey funds CHNA grants and training that some of the COA staff have attended. Samaritans came to speak to area town social services and outreach personnel. The COA does not have a separate statistical category for mental health. Outreach personnel are trained to encourage clients to go for professional help.
6. No Director's Report due to time constraints following time spent on the annual COA Budget discussion.

Next meeting: April 12, 5:00 PM