

**Council on Aging
Minutes of Meeting
March 15, 2011**

Chair Marje Stickler called the meeting to order at 10:37 AM. Board members present: Marje Stickler, Helen Taylor, Verna Gilbert, Jean Sain, Jim Elgin, Liz Bishop, Elizabeth Acquaviva and Sandy McIlhenny. Board members absent : Ted Read, Abha Singhal, and Phyllis Goff. Associate members present : Natalie Ives, Tom Dunkers and Nadine Bishop. Also attending were staff members Debi Siriani and Angela Smith. Peter Cullinane and Carol Killpartrick were not present. Friends present: Ray Taylor. Mary Daigle, Lillian Debenedictis, Ralph Anderson, John Ballantine, Al Carpenito and Bert Williams were present.

Marje Stickler introduced Mary Daigle, and Lillian Debenedictis as guests who may be interested in serving on the Board.

Marje introduced John Ballantine and Al Carpenito of the Highland Committee. John Ballantine presented information about preserving the Highland Building which included information about estimated costs of at least \$1.7million. Possible uses of the 4,500sq. ft. were extended day, affordable housing, rec. com. and COA. He presented a plan which included an elevator, restrooms, office space and meeting space. There were questions raised about parking, costs to maintain building and Cori checks. Al Carpenito spoke about the future plans to expand the school campus way from School St. Next, Ralph Anderson spoke about the problems he saw with the plan. He pointed out that the land is still controlled by the School, zoning restrictions are mandated and expensive building code updates will be required. He has two Warrant Articles which will be presented at Town Meeting this spring. Marje thanked the presenters and said the COA Board will review this information and take some action in the near future.

Secretary's Report: The minutes of the February 15, 2011 meeting were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Abha Singhal will present a report at the next meeting.

Director's Report: Debi Siriani reported that Fin. Com. recommended the 12 additional hours of paid staff time be included in the FY12 Budget and approved at Town Meeting. Verna, Marje and Debi met with C-C Community Chest representatives to review our grant application. Her report was accepted.

Outreach Coordinator's Report: Angela reported that she needs to have someone sign up for the June monthly coffee. Ray Taylor will see if anyone on the Friends will volunteer. The first two Senior Moments at Ferns have not been well attended but it has not been advertised in the newsletter yet. Angela asked about summer coffees and it was suggested that we might do them at Ferns. Her report was accepted.

Social Worker: Peter Cullinane's report for February was submitted and accepted.

Transportation Report: Carol Killpartrick 's report was submitted and accepted.

Travel: Sandy McIlhenny reported that the Russian Icon Museum trip will have at least 33 seniors attending. She reminded us that Joanne has a MFA trip planned for April 13 and we need to post this information. Marje thanked Sandy for her good work.

Friends of the COA: Ray Taylor reported that the Friends will meet tomorrow to approve the budget for 2011. He said that in 2010 the Friends spent more than they received as donations. He hopes that the COA will spend their budget first and look for grants. The COA and the Friends need to coordinate their budgets better this year.

Minuteman Senior Services: Jean Sain reported that the Governor temporarily stopped the cuts to the adult day care and foster care programs. People need to call and ask the governor to permanently stop the cuts. It will save the state money in the long run because day care is less costly than nursing homes.

Old/New Business: We need to agree on a meeting time for next year so that members and prospective members can plan to attend. The members discussed the options. Verna made a motion to meet the 4th Tuesday of the month with Nov., Dec., Jan., Feb. and March meetings held during the day and April, May, June, September and October meeting held at night. The summer pot luck will remain at night. The motion was seconded and passed with a vote 7 for and 1 against.

Next meeting date April 26, 7 PM Hollis Room at the Library.
Adjournment at 12:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Helen Taylor
Secretary