

Council on Aging (COA) Meeting
October 13, 2009

The COA meeting was called to order at 3:15 pm in the COA room at the Town Hall. Members present were Gary Leonard, Linda Stacy, Rosemary Wayrynen, Oliver Mutch, Jan Miller, and Nancy Catalini. Also present was Kathryn Becker, Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator.

The Secretary's Report was read and accepted as read. Kathryn Becker reported that the COA had received a contract from the EOE, which informed us that we were awarded the anticipated \$3,500.00. The money will be coming later.

The Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator's Report was handed out and reviewed together. A copy is always filed with the secretary. Of particular note were the two (2) new volunteers for the Meals on Wheels, and three (3) volunteers for the Friendly Visitors program that is in the beginning stages. Also, Kathryn is considering updating the emergency call information for Ashby's seniors to include cell phone numbers, some of which are not in her files. This would be an added piece of information to aid and assist Kathryn during inclement weather emergencies, such as the infamous ice storm of Dec. 2009. Fuel assistance applications are now available, with Kathryn being available for help here on an as-needed basis.

Old Business: A new name for membership to the COA was presented. The members voted to accept Johanna (Jan) Grutchfield of 53 Allen Road, Ashby to the board. Kathryn will present her name to the Board of Selectmen, as is required, for acceptance.

A release for the borrowing of medical equipment was drafted. We shall proceed with this when we have heard from Town Counsel.

New Business: The State Ethics Commission has developed a summary of the Conflict of Interest Law. A copy of it was given to each member present by Kathryn, and then she asked us to sign a sheet acknowledging acceptance of the summary.

We were made aware of a new program called Reverse 911, a state-of-the-art alert system for public safety issues. This is a community service provided by the Worcester County Sheriff's Office involving the local DPW, Police, Fire, and Public Health departments. It is being funded by the Central MA Homeland Security Advisory Council. The letter informing us of this new program stated that Ashby is already a member. Kathryn will bring this to the attention of the selectmen at their next meeting so we can determine how our various town departments are handling this. The COA would like to know where we might fit into this overall picture.

The meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm. The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, November 10, 2009 at 3:15 pm at the Town Hall in the COA room.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy L. Catalini, Secretary for COA