

## **COUNCIL ON AGING BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 8, 2016**

**Present:** Carolyn Bottum, Marilyn Buckler, Jack French, Sally Kindleberger, Trish McGean, Don Milan, Florence Montgomery, Donna Rizzo, Mary Sheldon, Dot Taylor, Dilla Tingley, Rob Todd

**Minutes:** The Minutes for the February 9, 2016 meeting were approved.

**Calendar:** Carolyn reviewed the highlights for the April calendar:

### **Director's Report:**

**Bemis Basement:** Work is underway with no definitive date for completion. Our sincere thanks to Michael Haines and Jim Skelly for all the work to get this project started.

**The Guide to Life in the Third Age:** A series of special programs under an “umbrella title” that will commence on April 8 with a luncheon at noon, followed by a program “Living Your Purpose”. It is hoped that participants will get in the habit of coming at 12:30 on Fridays for the series of programs.

**Tax Aide Program:** Packy Lawler and Greg Stathis are currently assisting very grateful clients with tax preparation help.

**Being Mortal Discussion:** The second in a series of discussions focussed around Atul Gawande’s “Being Mortal” will be held on April 15 at 9:30 am. **Fireside Chat** is another opportunity to engage in meaningful discussion of sensitive topics – in April it will focus on “Seeking Asylum”.

**Article in the Lincoln Journal:** Carolyn was delighted to contribute to a front-page article on the need to prepare for the growth of the senior population. A chance for us to highlight 1) our space needs, 2) the diversity of our programming and 3) our coordination with other departments to create a safety net for the town’s most vulnerable residents.

### **Committee Reports**

**Clinics** are fine

**Trips:** Dalin Museum trip was a success. Sally is looking generate interest in her “Doggie Graduation” trip on April 10.

**Minuteman Senior Services:** Minuteman has responded to COA concerns about difficulties accessing services by phone. They have instituted a “On Line Referral Form” freeing up some operator time and added operator hours. Dilla reported on a wonderful MM program called “**Money Follows the Person**”. Two MM employees visit 15 nursing homes and one rehabilitation facility in their service area and identify individuals who can be successfully returned to the community. This is a 5 year federally-funded pilot that has been very successful and we hope will be renewed. The MM team assisted 45 individuals in a transition back to their homes or special housing. Dilla participated with a large team from MM and other MA ASAPs and service providers in **Lobby Day** –on Feb 29 at the Statehouse. They met with every Rep and Sen in the MM service area to lobby for their budget priorities for seniors.

**Housing Commission:** Mary reports that there has been no meeting since she last reported.

**Campus Master Plan:** Additional copies of the Final Report have been printed and are available to read. We recommended that Carolyn invite Renel Fredrikson, our Selectperson liaison to a future meeting to discuss the Selectmen’s plans for moving forward with the Community Center and the School Project.

### **Other Business**

**The Anniversary Fair:** April 30 at Pierce Park (rain date May 1). Carolyn is looking for volunteers to man the COA table. Sally, planning committee member, suggested an exciting activity for us to sponsor. Elders telling and reading **Gramma and Grampa Stories**. Plan to also volunteer for this fun program. The whole day is shaping up to be a great celebration for the town.

Submitted by Dilla

