

Newton Council on Aging and Advisory Board Meeting
Tuesday, December 27th, 2016
Newton Senior Center
345 Walnut Street. Newtonville MA 02460

Staff: Alice Bailey, M. Leipsitz

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Approval of Minutes/Updates/Introductions

- ◆ Meeting called to order at 7:35 p.m. Minutes from the previous meeting approved.

2. Leaf Blower Ordinance Discussion

- ◆ Counselors James Cote and Allison Leary were in attendance to discuss the leaf blower ordinance.
- ◆ 4 members of the community were also in attendance.
- ◆ Cote: People affected would be elderly, handicapped, loss of jobs for landscapers.
- ◆ Not too worried about Ward 3 except people losing jobs.
- ◆ Leary: Not elected to regulate leaf blowers. Current ordinance says no more than 65 decibel at 50 feet away. City does not enforce.
- ◆ Suggestion that leaf blowers be banned between Memorial day and Labor day.
- ◆ Brookline and Cambridge have done this successfully.
- ◆ City must enforce and purchase new and quieter blowers.

2. PLAAN Update/discussion

- ◆ COA /Newton Department of Senior Services are partnering to outreach into the community, city departments and businesses. What do they see as strengths, weaknesses of the community in terms of Age-Friendliness?
- ◆ COA members will be involved in listening sessions and key interviews, face to face and small group. COA members can be scribes, facilitators, greeters, etc. at listening sessions
- ◆ The goal is to have all listening sessions and key interviews done between January and March.
- ◆ Important thing is to get the information learned back out to the community.
- ◆ Need to prioritize the information learned and create a preliminary plan. Select 1 or 2 priorities to process.
- ◆ Key issues that have come up at listening sessions so far is the need for an improved facility and the desire for more intergenerational opportunities.
- ◆ Marian has begun discussions with people who are concerned about the need for an improved facility. There will be a meeting held on January 30th to bring people together around this topic.
- ◆ Marian was invited to talk with Scott Lennon as Mayoral Candidate. She shared our vision, mission and current efforts through PLAAN. She will meet with Ruth Ann Fuller or any other candidate that declares to share the same information.

3. Membership

- ◆ No real report. Letters of Nomination will be submitted to the Mayor's for those members who have agreed to serve on the Executive Committee.

4. Springwell Report –

- ◆ **No Report**

5. Senior Citizens Fund of Newton– Carol Ann Shea

- ◆ Annual fund-raising letter focusing on the Emergency Relief Fund is in people's mailboxes.

6. Committee Reports

- ◆ **Housing:** A brief discussion of the changes proposed Accessory Apartment ordinance were discussed again. It is suggested that the COA consider a statement of support be submitted to the City Councilors. This will be taken up in Executive Committee.

Next Executive Committee meeting 2/9, 3:30
Next COA/AB meeting 1/24, 7:30

Submitted by Alice Bailey