

**Cambridge Council on Aging  
MEETING REMINDER AND AGENDA**

**COA BOARD MEETING  
Tuesday March 10, 2009  
9:30 a.m.**

**AGENDA:**

- 1. President's welcome/ remarks**
- 2. Review/Acceptance of minutes from meeting of February 10, 2009**
- 3. Reports:**

**COA Executive Director**

**Lisa Hartnett: some updates on Department of Mental Health**

**Client Services**

**Citywide Senior Center**

**North Cambridge Senior Center**

- 4. Old Business:**
  - decision on Jeanne Burton Award ceremony**
  - finalizing plans for March 28<sup>th</sup> Senior Town Meeting**
- 5. New Business**

## **Minutes of Board meeting of February 10, 2009**

Board Members Present: Pat Burgess, Bill Cobham, Mollie Gadarowski, Lisa Hartnett, Rev. Marnette Saz, Carmela Schipani, Edna Stamp, and Pat Toner,

Staff Present: Eileen Ginnetty, Pat Johnson, Vincent McCarthy, Susan Pacheco and Emma Watkins.

Minutes from January 13 meeting were accepted with two additions: it should be noted that there was a request made for War Memorial Pool schedules; also request that we note that the location of the recent fatal pedestrian accident was the intersection of Oxford and Wendell Streets.

**COA President's Remarks from Edna Stamp:** A newly appointed Board member, Mary Ann Dalton from Somerville Cambridge Elder Services (SCES) will join the COA board next month. Paine Senior Services is granting small grants for seniors needing certain services. Call them directly for more information.

Edna noted that Cambridge Center for Adult Education is having some classes geared for the baby boomer age group. She thinks it would be interesting for people to attend.

**COA Executive Director's Report:** Eileen welcomed Holly Bernier, Cambridge Police Liaison, to the meeting.

Eileen then reviewed the latest city budget cuts from the state which will amount to approximately 2.8 million dollars through FY 09, ending June 30 2009. We also had a state Formula Grant cut of \$6,000 for FY 09 but they don't believe that state cut will carry into the new FY 2010 grant year.

Time Trade Circle Time Bank will have a speaker at the center on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the 806 monthly Town Meeting.

Executive Office of Elder Affairs' (EOEA) Secretary Mike Festa recently resigned. The Acting Secretary is named Shea Delaney.

Eileen distributed a flyer about a February 26<sup>th</sup> lobby day at the state house in support of community funding for elder services.

**Client Services;** Susan announced that on February 19 the Mass. Dept of Revenue will speak on Circuit Breaker workshop, a property/rental tax break for seniors. On March 12, an MBTA representative will issue new, or renewals of, the MBTA ID's, with proof of age **65**<sup>+</sup>. (note; not age 60+)

Susan is seeing an influx of Portuguese speaking seniors that need her Social Service assistance, especially regarding healthcare benefits/ Medicare Part D, and it seems they are being referred here by the Cambridge Health Alliance.

**Citywide Senior Center:** Emma was pleased with the response to the Inauguration Day celebration here with seniors watching the ceremony. The Yoga Instructor hiring process is completed, and the instructor should be on board soon. Emma is excited to host a Container Gardening Workshop on April 4. In May we will be hosting an African Drumming Class, funding through a Cambridge Arts Council grant.

**North Cambridge Center;** Vincent told the board they will be celebrating Black History Month with a talk hosted by LeRoy Cragwell.

SCES is sponsoring, “A Matter of Balance” a program that emphasizes managing concerns about falls. The first 8 week session is filled, but another one will start in May. Vincent is considering starting a caregiver support group at 2050.

The North Cambridge Senior Center is getting a “face lift”. New shades are on order, new chairs and tables will soon be ordered, and a request is being sent to DPW for painting.

**New Business;** Senior Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 28 from 9:00-2:30. The theme is “Living Well in Cambridge”. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Eileen noted that the recent fatal pedestrian accident in Cambridge took the life of one of our senior participants, Helen Chin. Holly Bernier updated the board that the city’s Traffic Department is looking at raised sidewalks and the need to highlight them more. The Board wants to have the Director of Traffic and Parking, Susan Clippinger, come to a Board meeting to discuss issues.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2009

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia A. Johnson, COA