

Cambridge Council on Aging

Minutes of meeting held March 8, 2011

Attending: *Board*: William Cobham, President; Patricia Burgess; Yaw Adjei-Korangteng; Mary Ann Dalton; Carmella Schipani; Edna Stamp

Staff: Eileen Ginnetty; Vincent McCarthy; Susan Pacheco; Emma Watkins

Guest: Ellen Kokinda, Tufts Graduate student, COA intern

President William Cobham opened the meeting.

The minutes of the January 11, 2011 meeting were accepted as written.

Eileen: Shared with the Board some highlight from the first Silver Ribbon Commission meeting, overseen by Vice-Mayor Davis. The main focus of the Commission, which will meet through the end of this calendar year, is to present its findings and recommendations regarding housing issues and needs in the aging community in Cambridge.

Emma: told Board we desperately need a replacement dishwasher. The one that we have was the original from 1995 and is no longer working and repair is not a possibility. Quotes are being reviewed now. The Center also needs new large screen t.v. for the seniors and new chairs to replace some stained fabric chairs.

Susan: The Public Health Department will be here at the Center distributing envelopes for people to return unused pills to them for secure and safe disposal of the medications

Susan and Liz Seelman, COA Case Manager, are pulling together a small Hoarding group; a working group to share ideas and approaches to help seniors with this problem. Yao brought up the issue, how do you convince the person there is a hoarding problem?

There was recently a city-wide mailing by the Post Office to all residents in the city promoting the Carrier Alert home safety program. From that, Liz has received about 30 calls from new people inquiring about the program.

Vincent: the Computer Lab room at 2050 has been renovated, with new counters for the computers which provide more support.

The Strength Building class, taught recently at the Russell Center by Suzi W., will be starting again on Tuesday mornings, and this time it will be held right at the North Cambridge Senior Center.

Many plans are underway to celebrate the 2050 25th Anniversary, including a Remembrance Tea, Arts Show and a special Anniversary Luncheon in June.

Ellen: spoke a bit about her research in her Tufts program, Masters of Urban and Environmental Planning.