**MEETING MINUTES**

Harwich Council on Aging Board of Directors Meeting

April 4, 2018

Held at the Harwich Community Center

**MEETING ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members:** Richard Waystack, Lee Culver, Jim Mangan, Joanne Lepore, Angie Chilaka, Joan Felahi, Carol Thayer and Ralph Smith

**COA Staff:** Judi Wilson, COA Director, Marie Carlson, Recording Secretary

**Other Attendees**: Retired Commander Navy Seal Mr. Maloney

**CALL TO ORDER**: A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Richard Waystack.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Richard Waystack asked for a motion to approve minutes from the March 7th meeting. The motion to approve, was made by Lee Culver, and seconded by Jim Managan. All in favor-vote carries.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CHAIRS REPORT:**

**Chairman, Richard Waystack:** Continued discussion from last meeting about working on how to meet the needs of the seniors in regard to storm issues and establishing relationships that address the responsibilities and roles of all stakeholders. Several topics were discussed including homelessness, loss of power and phone lines, shelters, and possible solutions to these concerns. Work will continue on clarifying and identifying roles and responsibilities. Judi Wilson informed the Board that during the last storm she, along with Sue Jusell the Town Nurse, and Carolyn Carey, Director of Harwich Community Center came in to make reassurance calls and to secure a van driver to transport at risk seniors. Stated there is a need to revisit the list of at risk seniors and update the data base. Transportation needs to be addressed. Outreach is being re-established with the Fire Departments, sharing reports about vulnerable seniors, helping the town nurse.

.**NEW BUSINESS:**

A short discussion took place regarding town assessments and need for “Regional Age Friendly” consideration.

The need for representation on the Board of Elder Services was pointed out for the importance of federally designated programs addressing funding, needs assessment, meals on wheels, state funded home care, respite caregivers, and nursing home representatives.

COAST is also looking for new members to serve on their board.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:**

**Director, Judi Wilson**: Judi reported she had attended a joint meeting making the effort to educate on the many things we do at the Council on Aging, and how we meet the needs of our senior community, reporting the message was well received. She updated the Board on several topics highlighting some of the areas of concern for moving forward with the implantation of the new tracking software, ServTracker, citing frustration with IT problems and issues confronting the transition.

**Richard Waystac**k**:** offered Judi had the data to present, representing the senior programs and services to meet the needs of our senior citizens. Data is paramount and leads to emergency services. Richard stressed the importance of a reliable database.

Judi informed the Board of the many efforts being made to prepare staff for the new transition.

Computer training has been implemented, updating skills of the staff. COA has a new intern, a college student working in the “Field of Aging”, for a short time.

Judi gave an update on legislative support moving forward for dementia awareness, protective services, elder services, as well as creating a fund for durable medical equipment.

The director reported on the many complex issues that have presented themselves lately at the COA prompting home visits, such as self-neglect, health issues, dementia, and hoarding.

She also reported on the success of the most recent programs such as “The Spring Fling’, “Cord Cutting” with attendance of 135 people,

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**OLD BUSINESS: none**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Lee Culver and seconded by Jim Managan. All in favor, vote carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

The next meeting will be **May 2, 2018** at 10:00 a.m. at the Harwich Council on Aging Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Carlson, Executive Assistant, HCOA

***Amended and approved by vote at the 5/2/2018 meeting of the HCOA Board***