

MINUTES

Council on Aging Grounds Committee

January 15, 2015

Senior Center 230 Webster St., Marshfield, Ma 02050

ATTENDANCE: Bob Goodell, Carol Hamilton, Bill Lyons and Sarah Sullivan.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 1:10 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Bill Lyons moves to approve the minutes of December 15, 2015. Bob Goodell seconds the motion. Motion passes.

DISCUSSION: Sarah mentioned that the main problem seems to be with maintenance. The less shrubbery we have the less there will be to maintain. If we plant more grass instead of bushes and flowers the DPW will then maintain it. Others agreed that it was a good direction to go in. We should walk the property when the weather breaks and assess the work. If we can downsize our work it will be a relief and will put fewer demands on the older volunteers. There are many directions we could go in for maintenance. Could the Boosters help with maintenance cost? How much would the maintenance be for the duties that are not covered under DPW? We could get price estimates to determine the cost. Could we get the Sheriff's office to maintain the property? It is hard to schedule the Sheriff's Department as they are busy with many community projects. Martine called in to say that she has not gotten a hold of the private vendor she is hoping to meet with but she will continue trying.

The most important part of the outside property is the entrance. This should look well maintained and pristine. A weed protector would alleviate the weed problem in this area. If we were to install landscape paper the plantings would have to be removed. We also need to treat the patios and the raised gardens with a pre-emergence treatment. We have had the patio done in the past and this has helped immensely with the weed control.

Martine called in with a report to say that she is continuing to work on the dog waste problem and has gotten written information from Cindy Castro, Beach Administrator and the dog officer. There is also a website where resources can be viewed. Martine will pursue the information and come up with some costs. Bill Scott took some pictures of dog waste containers, bags and signs and will bring in some pictures for Martine to go over. It was suggested that there be a barrel in the vicinity of the dog waste signs. Could DPW provide this? The DPW could assist with making signs and installing the posts. There are no town bylaws penalizing residents that do not pick up after their dogs. There is a leash law however.

It was decided that the group would do a walk-through of the outside property to come up with a strategy for maintenance. We should meet in the spring to do the walk first and then have a meeting. At that point we anticipate having more information on the dog signs, vendors, One Heart Many Hands, and cost estimates for maintenance.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 26, 2015 @ 12:45 pm.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Hamilton, Director
Council on Aging