

**Housing Committee
Town of Pelham, MA**
Meeting Minutes: March 14, 2018

Joint meeting with Council on Aging

APPROVED APRIL 3, 2018

Committee Members in Attendance:

Tilman Lukas
Ruth Elcan
Barbara Cooper
Gail Kenny

Absent:

Tony Maroulis
Jim Lumley

Council on Aging in Attendance

Grace Dane
Kathy Martel

Votes Taken

None

Action Items

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m.

Tilman Lukas will take minutes for this meeting and forward draft to Kathy Martell

Committee Discussion Topics

Discussion focused on needs of the elderly in town. Kathy and Grace discussed various programs that are available but often not taken advantage of because unless elderly communicate with COA or go to town events they might not be aware of options. Eli Kwartler was outreach worker but has since given up position. Programs that are or were available:

- Lunches at the library
- Medical help
- Food from survival center
- Medicare SHINE
- Veterans Services
- Flu clinic

Highland Valley provides a lot of services and seems to be the main source COA goes to for assistance, such as the little-known 24/7 in-home care program.

COA gets some grant money from the Commonwealth. Seniors can go to any Senior Center that receives state funding. Most from Pelham go to Amherst.

COA is starting a ride share program to help people get to appointments. Difficulty in finding drivers. PVRTA will provide service but very expensive.

Less than 50% of elderly have Internet access. It is not available in some parts of town. Many just can't afford the cost and technology is a challenge. Is there a program that could assist elderly in getting Internet and addressing technology issues that can be paid for by CPA?

Members attending also discussed possible home rehab services such as the state's Home Modification Program, grant program to assist in supplementing current energy/fuel costs (insert comma here) and energy audit programs.

The COA plans to send out another questionnaire to seniors, perhaps in the fall, to ascertain needs. Housing Committee may want to suggest some questions.

Building inspector David Waskiewicz is a person who could alert the Housing Committee to needs of some elderly residents for assistance in making house repairs. The Housing Committee might suggest that the CPC fund such a program if it is eligible.

Kathy said there is a great need for affordable senior housing in Pelham.

No next meeting was scheduled between the COA and Housing Committee at this time.

Adjourn at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,
Tilman Lukas