

**Aid to the Elderly Committee Meeting**  
**May 12, 2017**  
**8:00am**

<b>Attending:</b>	
<b>Al Wisialko</b>	
<b>Pat Ahearn</b>	<b>Josepha Jowdy</b>
<b>Pat Conley</b>	<b>Sharon Pappetti</b>
<b>Leo Crowe</b>	<b>Janice Polin</b>
<b>Pam Dukeman</b>	<b>Mike Walsh</b>

Pam started the meeting by reviewing the last meeting and topics covered.

**Review of Research Results:**

The finance department contacted other towns in Massachusetts to see how other Aid to the Elderly programs worked. The results showed that other towns are not doing nearly as much as Westwood is, and their qualifications are much more restrictive. Some towns have given one or less gifts. Needham is closest to our level of activity but their gifts are always quite small (average is less than \$500).

**Follow Up on Data Request from Previous Meeting**

The Additional Data that had been requested by the group at the last meeting was also presented and reviewed. Some of the data includes:

- Westwood Food Pantry serves 42 families
- There are over 3,000 residents aged 65+
- COA mailing list goes to 2,800 households

Fundraising opportunities were reviewed, and committee members agreed to reach out to local corporate sponsors to see if the Fund can be a beneficiary. Jake and Joe's, the Chateau, Anthony's Coal Fire Pizza, and Not your Average Joe's as well as Roche Brothers and Wegmans were all mentioned as possible donors.

The group then reviewed an estimated calculation of how much more would the fund need in order to pay a larger percentage of each bill. This led to a discussion as to whether the fund should be paying a percentage of each person's tax bill or a flat amount to everyone who qualifies. The group determined that a flat amount was preferable.

**Group Discussion:**

The group discussed many aspects of the fund. One thing everyone agreed to do is continue with an outreach effort to both potential beneficiaries as well as potential donors. This can take many forms, including a mailing to the Council on Aging Newsletter list, inclusion in the COA newsletter, inclusion in the Town's newsletter, and outreach to the schools.

The next applications will have the deadline for submission moved up to November 1 from December 31.

The group decided that they will not plan to include an article in the potential fall 2017 Town Meeting, but instead will use this time to try to increase donations, and ensure they are reaching out to all the possible beneficiaries for the fund. However, if they decide to go to the Town for funding in the future, the committee felt that asking the town to match resident and corporate donations would be the best option.

**Next Steps:**

The group has agreed to undertake an outreach program. To that end, the finance department has coordinated having items included in both the town and COA newsletters. The potential of a separate mailing will also be reviewed. Committee members agreed to reach out to potential corporate sponsors to try to increase the funding level.