

St. Lawrence County Office for the Aging (OFA)
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
June 15, 2015

Meeting called to order: 10:00 AM by Carlton Doane, Chair

Present: (*voting members*): Carlton Doane, Joyce Persons, Patrick Rourk, Ada Santaferra

Present: (*non-voting members*): Michael Boprey, Sylvia Despaw, Andrea Montgomery

Excused: Bob Mead, Roger Bennett, Gail Bisonette, Frank Carter, Linda Wilkinson

Absent: Ron Frank, Elaine Porter, Steve Putman

Public Attending:

Meeting Location: Massena Community Center

◆**Introductions:** Meeting brought to order by C. Doane. Opened with Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

◆**Guest Speaker** – **Ruth Doyle**, St. Lawrence County Administrator. Ruth explained that this has been a great year of change for the county. We have ten new legislators and the BOL is dedicated to how things can be done better and more efficiently. There are two new department heads to be hired in the Public Health and Public Defenders departments. Ruth was the Interim Director at Office for the Aging before A. Montgomery and saw how much the staff cares for older adults and providing services to them. Ruth also explained the interests of the BOL in fiscal responsibility and their mindfulness of the importance of reasonable property taxes. They also have a commitment to take care of the aging population.

◆**Introductions** (*A. Montgomery*) Andrea introduced Randy Andre, Office for the Aging Senior Program Coordinator. She also introduced two potential Advisory Council members, Russ Backus, NYSARC Aging Program, and Brenda Papineau, Director of Community Based Learning Program at St. Lawrence University. Other guests introduced themselves.

◆**Public Comment** – No public comment.

◆**Approval/Minutes** – P. Rourk moved to approve minutes, seconded by J. Persons. All in favor.
Motion passed.

◆**Correspondence** (*L. Wilkinson*) –

A. Montgomery reported. L. Wilkinson sent a thank you card to last meeting's speaker, Michele Catlin, *Claxton Hepburn Hospital Community Outreach Coordinator*.

◆**Old Business** – OFA Work Reports / no questions or comments

◆**New Business** – A. Montgomery discussed the need for Advisory Council members and answered questions regarding this.

County Council of Senior Citizens Report (*Sylvia Despaw*)

Annual Senior Picnic finalized. It will be at Morristown Fire Hall on July 10th from 9 am to 3 pm. Free bingo and door prizes plus entertainment. OFA will provide a barbeque chicken dinner for \$3 suggested donation cooked by the firemen. More info will be coming. Received annual United Way funding to assist with the MayFest and the picnic. SEFA application to be done by June 29th. County Council will also have a table at the Seniorama in August. No meeting in July. Next meeting Aug. 13th. Assistant Attorney General will be the speaker.

StateWide Senior Action Council Report *(Linda Wilkinson)*

A. Montgomery reported. Seniorama Aug. 12th from 10 am to 3 pm at SUNY Canton Roo House.

Veterans Services Report *(Mike Boprey)*

New VA Clinic is planned to open July 1st. The last few months there has been no provider so there will be a bottleneck when they open. Claims are coming in for Camp Lejeune and others. Mike said that he is here for everyone and gave office hours and locations.

Public Health Report *(Laurie Maki)*

Flu season is officially over. Laurie explained the Functional Needs Registry and the emergency preparedness efforts for individuals with special needs in case of emergency or evacuation. Referrals are needed. Public Health will be at the Senior Picnic to register people. Reminder about tick season and the need for dogs and cats to be vaccinated for rabies. Ticks are a big problem. Laurie answered questions and explained procedure when ticks are discovered. Also preventive measures such as staying covered. The NYS DOH website is very informative.

County Legislator's Report *(Steve Putman)*

S. Putman not present. R. Doyle reported. BOL adopted 2 local laws in the past month. Sparklers are now legal 2 weeks prior to July 4th and New Year's Day. There was also a law adopted clarifying regulations for pistol permits in the county. Process has begun for 2016 budget preparation. Three St. Lawrence County detectives were honored in Washington D.C. for their investigation in the Amish child abduction case.

AARP Report *(Gail Bisonette)*

C. Doane reported. The next meeting is at noon tomorrow at the Potsdam American Legion.

Office for the Aging Report *(Andrea Montgomery)*

- ACUU Conference last week with five staff members attending
- BIP (*Balancing Incentive Program*) \$300,000
- OFA will be the hub for services / R. Andre is on board to work with POE / hopefully we'll have 4 staff working in NY Connects
- R. Andre will also be doing LTC planning workshops in the community
- Senior Picnic / working with NYSARC for transportation
- Walk With Ease in Ogdensburg in July
- Need for volunteers for HDMs

♦**Adjournment** – Motion to adjourn by P. Rourk, seconded by J. Persons, all in favor.

C. Doane adjourned at 11:15 AM.

♦**Next Meeting** – Monday, September 14th, 10 am at the Cambray Courts Community Room.

(Minutes respectfully submitted by Christine Fobare)