

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SENIORS  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2015 MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Chairman Deanna Schuetz at 1:30 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Pat Bachetti, Elaine Bemont, Dory Bynack, Eileen Fedorowich, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz, Joan Sizer and Tim Welch.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**AUDIENCE:** Ann Levesque – Motion made by Phyllis Gwilliam with a second by Ailene Henry allowing Ann to speak if she wished to.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of minutes from meeting of October 13, 2015 with motion by Ailene Henry and second by Pat Bachetti approved with the following corrections:

- Under the **Newsletter** section of Committee Reports, a statement should be added that the newsletter will be mailed directly to Woodcrest residents who call and request one.
- Under **Meals on Wheels** – It should be noted that the new driver is a woman and should be referred to as her rather than him.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Chairman's Report – Deanna reported the following:

- **New Bus** – New bus has arrived and will seat 12 people plus room for two wheelchairs. Bus may not be driven out of state due to clause in the grant. There is no fee for use of the bus. Donations may be made, and much appreciated, to the Town of Somers, Dept. of Transportation.
- **Patio at the Senior Center** has been delayed due to a drainage problem. A door and awning will also be added to the building. These will take place when weather permits.
- **Health & Wellness Classes** – Raiki is done for the present time due to a lack of interest. Tai Chi Qi Gong is temporarily on hold. Chair Aerobics is going well and attendance has improved. Zumba gold is still going on.

Meals on Wheels – There are currently 11 clients receiving meals. Volunteer drivers are desperately needed. Background checks are in place. Newest driver is a woman.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti reported she is currently in contact with fourteen people via cards, etc. and things are going well. She is in the process of preparing Christmas treats for these residents.

Senior Club – Dory reported that there are 190 paid members and things are going well. Christmas lunch will be held next Wednesday, December 16th. A roast beef dinner will be the feature meal.

Publicity – Joan Sizer reported that she has taken pictures of the knitting group and the display of items they have made. She will be putting an article in the paper about this.

Trips – Deanna reported that there will be no trips planned for January and February due to unknown inclement weather. The Mohegan trip, however, will still take place and there will be an increase in the cost to \$25 per person.

Woodcrest – Eileen reported that there are a lot of renters in the town of Somers, including 140 apartments at Woodcrest. There seems to be some disconnect between the Senior Center and Woodcrest. Deanna has reached out to them many times and made every effort to work with them and try to have a good relationship with them. It is hoped this situation will improve.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Letter went out to non-Somers residents advising them they will no longer receive the newsletter by mail. One can be picked up at the Senior Center or sent to them via email. Tim questioned where we stood with regard to a steam table for the use of daily lunches at the Senior Center. Deanna advised that we are not ready to take on this project at this time due to lack of staff and volunteers to run it properly. (See COMMENTS)

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ailene Henry and Ann Levesque brought the idea of expansion before the board. It appears that this is a long and drawn out topic. We all agree that space is a problem in our current situation but are not sure how to go about making any changes. This effort would require residents to pay more in taxes, town referendums, donations, etc. Early on in the process we would need to show exactly what is needed as well as what we really want. First of all, we would need to identify who is going to head this effort and develop a steering committee to move ahead. Other questions would be to acquire town support, funding, architectural support, etc. It is a very involved project and this is merely the very beginning. Ann would like to see pickleball and ping pong in our future and was advised to present her wishes to this board. Much discussion followed on this topic. More details on this will come along in the future.

#### **COMMENTS:**

Deanna reported that Patty recently resigned her position with Easter Seals and, at least for the time being, there is no replacement in sight. Current staff is much overworked. Joan Sizer brought up the subject of volunteers to help out. First of all, the current staff would need to identify the areas in need of their help and train them in specific areas.

Additional funding will be asked in the upcoming budget request. Letters could be written by individuals to the Board of Selectmen stating the need for additional personnel. It would also be a good idea to attend town board meetings. Deanna will be holding an open forum on Monday, January 11th at 1:00 to talk about things we should or should not be doing here at the Senior Center. People should bring their questions for discussion. Let your friends know about this meeting...the more people in attendance, the better.

This board's holiday luncheon will be held at the time of our next meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be a good way to start off the New Year.

**Next meeting of the Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 1:30.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 3:00 by motion of Joan Sizer with a second by Pat Bachetti.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

**MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING**