

**Town of Somers**

**Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors**

**September 13 2016**

**Present:** Pat Bachetti, Elaine Bemont, Dori Bynack, Eileen Fedorowich, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz, Joan Sizer, Tim Welch

**Audience:** Tina Toohey

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by chairman Deanna Schuetz.

**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes of meeting should include time of adjournment. Elaine moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as corrected.

**Committee Updates:**

**a. Chairman's Report:**

**I. Senior Center Staffing:** The SC has a new assistant, Pam McCormick, and two new bus drivers, Donna LaVallee and Melinda Burnham. All are part time positions.

**II. Transportation Services:** The new transportation brochure has been completed and information about transportation services has gone out resulting in more requests for Dial a Ride services. We are almost at the point of needing to use both buses every day. Careful scheduling is needed to ensure that we are still able to use a bus for trips. Medical scheduling is a priority. We have two grants – one for purchase of the second bus and one for operating expenses.

There was a question about providing a bus for Woodcrest for voting. There will be no special bus. Residents can call for service. As well, political town committees will provide transportation.

**III. Coffee Talk Series:** The next Coffee Talk will be in October when we will the new focus on the new Senior Center software.

**IV. My Senior Center Software:** This software will facilitate registration and the keeping of statistics about the use of the Center and will facilitate Dial a Ride sign ups. There will be the ability to use robocalls to remind people of upcoming programs. Registration for this is going on now and we should "go live" on Monday Sept. 19. Installation of new reception stations should be started on Sept. 14. Joan suggested that the presentation at Coffee Talk should emphasize that this is part of an ongoing positive improvement program for the Senior Center since change is difficult for some people. There will be an article in the newsletter, a sign on the door, mention at Senior Club and Healthy Breakfast.

**V. Technology Programs:** Five people attended the program on photo management with Cecelia Becker from the Somers library. Since each person had different needs it was hard to conduct a class. However, each person attending had some needs met and Ms. Becker offered to meet each person individually at the library to continue with help.

We discussed having National Honor Society students meet one on one with seniors. Deanna will reach out to their advisor and suggest help with cell phones. Students would need to understand how seniors learn and have some way of providing written instructions. Some people have also asked for help with iPads.

**VI. Upcoming SC Programs/Events/Trips:** The barbeque on Sept.12 in celebration of Nat. Senior Center Month was a big success.

Deanna gave a handout of upcoming events and trips. There was a request for information on the repositioning cruise. Senior center staff finds Friendship Tours cooperative to work with.

- b. Meals on Wheels:** Program is going well. There is an increase in the number of clients from Woodcrest.
- c. Senior Support:** Pat keeps in monthly contact with 15 people.
- d. Senior Club:** Dory reported that there are 180 active members for 2015 and 2016. There are 30 pending (inactive) members. The Dion lunch, with a seating capacity of 75, will be Oct. 19. There was a discussion about not being able to include all members since this is one of the benefits of belonging to the Senior Club. Deanna expressed a concern about clarifying the difference between the Senior Center for which there is no membership fee and the Senior Club which has a \$2:00 annual fee. It was suggested that we invite Dan Fraro, Senior Club president, and other club members, to our next Advisory Committee meeting to clarify club by-laws.
- e. Publicity:** Joan took photos at the barbeque and will submit an article to local papers.
- f. Woodcrest:** There was a question about how to access Housing Authority meeting minutes.
- g. Old Business:** Deanna stated that there needs to be a vice-chairman for our committee to lead the meeting if she has to be away. Deanna would meet with the person prior to the meeting. Ailene nominated Eileen for this position; Tim nominated Pat. Both accepted the nomination. At our next meeting we will elect a vice chair.

**New Business:** none

Elaine noted that our November meeting will be election day so we may need another meeting place. Kibbe-Fuller and the library were mentioned as possibilities.

Dory moved and Eileen seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

