

**TOWN OF SOMERS
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY
MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2009 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 11:10 A.M. by Jenifer Charette

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Bachetti, Elaine Bemont, Jenifer Charette, Donna Dyker, Susan King and Arlene Yarnes

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Flebotte and Dorothy Hillman

AUDIENCE: First Selectman David Pinney

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of meeting of March 10, 2009 approved by motion of Pat Bachetti with a second by Susan King with the necessary corrections. All members present were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you note sent to Cheryl Lallier at Woodcrest expressing the thanks of the Board for the tour of the new Woodcrest Housing given to us on 3/6/09.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairperson's Report – Jenifer reported that the income tax program sponsored by AARP did not come to be in Somers. Our residents had to go to the Stafford Public Library if they wanted help with their taxes. - Good response to our newsletter. The next edition should be out around the first of May and will have bigger print to make it easier for our seniors to read. There are currently three annual ads and two one-time ads in the newsletter. Jim Jenkins brought the plastic bins to hold the newsletters to the senior housing. - A travel expo will be held at the senior center on May 5th at 6:00 P.M. There will be films, snacks, brochures, etc. - Also on May 5th in the afternoon will be a demonstration on a yoga class and zumba gold class for our seniors to see if there is any interest in having these classes held here. - There will be a Red Sox/Yankees game shown on TV at the senior center on 4/24. - All TVs at the center are now hooked to cable. - The Boy Scouts have expressed an interest in building a senior community garden at the rear of the center for the growing of flowers, vegetables, etc. For their Eagle Project, the scouts will tend the garden and we will reap the benefits. - There is also some talk of the scouts building a walkway from the senior center to Woodcrest. This project is only in the thinking stage. - The Tobacco Valley Arts Assn. would like to offer some free art classes along with supplies to the seniors sometime in June. They would like a minimum of 6 people and a maximum of ten. More information will be forthcoming on this.

Meals on Wheels – Things are going well with this program. There are about 16 clients currently receiving meals. It was felt that this program needs more advertising on Somersnow.com or similar sites on the internet. There seems to be no easy way for our seniors to find out about this program. Perhaps a press release would help. Members of

the Congregational Church of Somersville asked how many clients there were because they would like to make May baskets for them.

Senior Lunches – Arlene Yarnes reported that the next lunch will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at the Somers Congregational Church sponsored by the Somers Women’s Club. May 19th lunch will be at the high school. There is a seating maximum here.

Senior Citizens Club – Arlene Yarnes reported that the second hand table is quite popular. - Popcorn and a movie on Sunday afternoons has gone over well. – It looks like the trip to New York City on April 22 has gone over well. - Jim Kocot will do a presentation of his recent trip to China to the seniors after one of the lunches later in the month. - Priority needs to be given to have the lights repaired/replaced in this facility. Currently the ballasts are shot and many complaints are being received from the game players, etc. as to the lack of proper lighting. – The Idea Basket will be coming back in case someone has something or a program they would like to see at the center. - On the evening of May 1 at 6:00 there will be a senior prom sponsored by one of the grades at the Somers schools.

Senior Sign – Donna Doyker is working with Jenifer on messages that should be put up on the senior sign.

School Liaison – Donna Doyker – nothing new at this time.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti kept in touch with her people while she was away for the winter and has since visited with them. There are currently four people in the program. An auction is being planned for mid-May.

OLD BUSINESS:

Entrance Door – Board members felt it was a high priority to have the outside door fixed to open with the handicap button. Jim Jenkins is working on this. There appears to be a problem with the battery. Cost of the battery should not be a problem. It is difficult to watch people with walkers, wheelchairs, etc. struggle to get into our building.

NEW BUSINESS:

Possible New Programs – Jenifer is open to any and all ideas for what the seniors might want here. She and Arlene are looking at ways to keeping the building open for use every day. If you have any ideas, please let them know.

Grant for Additional Bus Service – Dave Pinney reported that the state legislature has an expanded program for the elderly and disabled for beefed up bus service. Some suggestions for this use might be a senior bus to the firehouse for their pancake breakfasts, a bus to the Enfield Senior Center for special programs held there, a Monday matinee at the theater in the mall, a bus to Deerfield, a trip to the Big E, formation of a luncheon club, etc.

Info Postings on Town Websites – Feeling were that it is difficult to get around these sites as they currently exist. Ways need to be found to make it easier for our seniors to find the information they are looking for.

ADJOURNMENT: Adjournment at 12:10 by motion of Sue King and second by Donna Doyker.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING