

**TOWN OF SOMERS
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2009 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Jenifer Charette at 11:34 A.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Bachetti, Elaine Bemont, Jenifer Charette, Donna Doyker, Dorothy Hillman, Susan King and Arlene Yarnes and First Selectman David Pinney.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Barbara Flebotte

AUDIENCE:

Cindy Parker of Woodcrest. *Cindy announced that all who are supposed to move have made their move to the one story units. *Two units remain empty in the big building. *Twenty-three more single units are scheduled to be built. *The Community Room is now open and new chairs should be arriving in a day or so. *There is a new manager – Brook Hawkins – who can be reached at 860 749-4658. *Energy assistance forms are very time consuming. *Mail boxes will be moved to more convenient locations. *New tenants will pay rent at fixed rates.

Ryan and Holly King – Ryan was a guest at this meeting as part of a civics assignment at school. He was to attend a civics meeting, take notes, and prepare a report for his class. His sister Holly accompanied him.

Judy Snyder – Judy came to the meeting as a representative of the Somers Community Health and Wellness Association (formerly the Somers VNA). The new name represents the whole community and is in favor of promoting a wellness approach to health care. The association subcontracts for Visiting Nurse services with the Home and Community Services of Enfield. *The Association is currently doing a fund raising campaign. Monies collected will be used in various ways to help with special needs and projects. *Flu clinics will be held at the high school on 10/24 from 10 to 2 o'clock and at the Senior Center on 10/27 from 1 to 4 o'clock. *Expectations are to have an H1N1 clinic in the future but requirements/needs for this vaccination change every day. Young children, pregnant woman and those with chronic illnesses will be the first to receive this vaccination. *It is hoped to hold a Health Fair next year. *It is also hoped to have speakers at both the senior center and Woodcrest in the future. *Arlene Yarnes is our liaison person with the Somers Community Health and Wellness Association.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes of September 8, 2009 meeting by motion of Susan King with a second by Arlene Yarnes.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter received from Barbara Flebotte dated September 3, 2009

updating her 2009 projects with the Advisory Committee to the Elderly. She wished to convey to the committee members her appreciation for their support and her congratulations on their continuous successes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairperson's Report - *Eleven people had a successful trip to the Butterfly Farm. *Possible trips are being planned to Yankee Candle and Bright Nights. *Next newsletter will be going out at the end of October. *New yoga class has proven to be very successful. *Craft classes may be scheduled before the holidays. *Curves is going out of business and has some fitness equipment we might be interested in. This could be located in the Kibbe Fuller School building. Liability issues need to be checked into first before going ahead with this project. *Landscaping has been done and all for free. Grounds look beautiful. Jenifer did much of the dirty work herself. Many thanks to her for this project. *Beautification Committee is willing to help support our grounds in the spring. *Lighting in the building is still awaiting grant money and, per David Pinney, is about about ready to go. *Door still does not work and new repair items are on order.

Meals on Wheels – Susan King announced that this program is having some financial problems and there was not enough money on hand to pay current bills. Donations are being sought and requests will be made to the various churches, Rotary, etc. Modifications need to be made to the current billing program to remove subsidies that some people get but are not really entitled to .

Senior Lunches – The next outside lunch will be held in February at the Congregational church in Somers.

Senior Citizens Club –*The Somers seniors won a trophy in the Four Town Parade. Members had a great time planning for this event and are looking forward to doing something in next year's parade. *Sign-up sheet is available for the Taste of Greece to be held in East Longmeadow. *Sign-up sheets will soon be available for a trip to Bright Nights. *Healthnet representative will be here on November 4 to speak about the various Medicare plans. *Dion lunch will be held on Oct. 21 and will be free to club members. *Halloween party is planned for October 28. *Preparations are underway for a Christmas Party to be held in December. Arlene will be seeking donations for door prizes for this event.

Senior Sign – Donna said sign will now reference the upcoming flu shots.

School Liaison – Donna Doyker was willing to relinquish this project to Susan King due to lack of time to adequately work on this. Sue, however, feels that she is unable to take this project on at the present time.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti is currently working with six people, four active, and is sending out cards, baking for them, etc. Personal issues have limited Pat in doing all she would like with these people at this time.

OLD BUSINESS:

Newsletter Names – Several names were presented for a new name for our newsletter. Among these were Somers Echoes, Echoes from Somers Seniors, Somers Mailbox News, The Link, SUN (Seniors United News) and the Somers Senior Gazette. By a vote of hands, Echoes from Somers Seniors was the winner. Name was presented by Marge DeLoach..

NEW BUSINESS:

Norma Meyer – Norma will be leaving us on October 30. Her term with the Easter Seals Foundation will be over and she has surpassed the time limit. Requirements are that it is a training program for seniors over 55 years of age with a moderate income and she has been successfully trained to seek employment elsewhere if she chooses. There are approximately 15 to 18 eligible applicants and a decision will need to be made soon as to her replacement will be.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 1:10 P.M. by motion of Sue King with a second by Dottie Hillman.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING