

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2013 MEETING**

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine Bemont, Jim Burgess, Dorothy Bynack, Ron Collyer, Phyliss Gwilliam, Ailene Henry and Amy Saada

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Pat Bachetti and Fran Boudreau

**AUDIENCE:** Florence Hurley, Cheryl Anderson, Maryann Kingsbury, Joan Sizer and David Gwilliam. Also present were two high school girls – Jenn Travers and Mackenna Wysocki – who were sitting in on a government meeting as part of one of their classes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of minutes of December 11, 2012 with a motion by Ron Collyer and a second by Phyliss Gwilliam..

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Chairman's Report - Amy reported the following:

- On Thursday the flooring will be completed/repared and the painting of the interior will be completed.
- Window treatments and rugs will be put down to help alleviate some of the noise in the building. It is also hoped to add a divider so more than one activity can be going on at the same time.
- Paintings of the Art Group will be displayed on a wall for all to enjoy.
- Quilt will be rehung as building decorations are added.
- New ideas are needed to increase participation and add new programs the seniors will enjoy. Amy is open to suggestions. We need to find out what works and what does not work.
- Some new suggestions were be to hold craft days, telephone reassurance calls to our shut-ins, a bus to the Y in Ellington for swimming, computer, IPOD training classes which are also available at the Enfield Senior Center and the Somers Library, etc.
- A Valentines Party and grand-reopening celebration is being planned for Wednesday, February 13 from one to three o'clock. Entertainment and refreshments will be provided. It is hoped to attract some seniors to the center who don't usually come to visit us and check things out.
- Trips will be advertised in the coming newsletter. Those trips using the senior bus will require a \$2.00 fee to cover the cost of gas, etc. Larger bus trips will also be advertised in the newsletter and there will be fees associated with these. A trip to Mohegan Sun Casino will be held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every other month starting in March.

Other comments presented by the Board members and audience were as follows:

- Joan Sizer questioned what was going to be done with the organ that was near the exit door. It seems that this is not in very good shape and needs to be dealt with.
- Maryann Kingsbury was hoping to be able to find some volunteer drivers who would be willing to transport our seniors to out-of-local area doctors, etc. Liability question came into focus and would need to be checked out.
- Ron Collyer asked what ever happened to a program we started to set up a couple of years ago where our seniors would talk to the local school students and tell them about life as they know it and answer their questions, etc. Ron will look into this further.
- Maryann Kingsbury brought up the subject of pot luck suppers, etc. on the weekends. Amy said the building could not be used unless it was properly staffed. Staffing is short as it is and, for the time being, was not available on weekends or evenings.
- Phyliss Gwilliam and Maryann Kingsbury also brought up the subject of an exercise class dealing with balancing. It is believed that this was done at Woodcrest and Fran Little would know about it. Cheryl Anderson was going to speak to Fran about this.

Meals on Wheels - Linda Coleman is working with the town treasurer to find out where this program stands financially. We have been able to pay 1 month of clients meals on wheels and will look into creating a subsidized program to assist very low/low income seniors afford their meals. Linda has been keeping detailed records to present to the town showing the amount of hours actually spent handling this program. Joan Sizer will sit with Amy to put together a letter to present to the town with our basic needs. This letter will be shown to us at the February meeting for our review and signatures.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti reported from Florida that she is working with three clients at Blair Manor. She will continue to keep in touch with her people while away.

Senior Club – Jim Burgess passed out a sheet of the Senior Club meetings for the coming year. Meetings are open to those who wish to attend. Jim announced that there has been much concern about the financial situation of the club. The person in charge of the finances will be coming in to speak to the club members regarding this subject. Wednesday meals will resume tomorrow and the club will continue to hold their coffee and donut get-togethers on Tuesday mornings.

Trips – Phyliss Gwilliam showed us a newspaper article from last year regarding a Senior Day at the Capitol in Hartford which was held last April. She said breakfast was included in this activity and there was a \$5.00 fee for lunch. She was going to check into seeing if this was going to be held again this year.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Flooring and painting of the interior will be completed this week.

Pool table will be installed once flooring is completed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

E Mail Data Base – An attempt is being made to develop a senior data base so that more information can be given out in a timely basis. People seem reluctant to give out their email addresses.

**COMMENTS:**

Phyliss has invited senior center directors from neighboring towns to one of our healthy breakfasts. She would like to discuss with them their willingness to include us in some of their trips as well as including them in ours when space is available.

David Gwilliam would like to invite AAA to set up a travel show at the senior center. Trips of all types could be presented to our seniors for future planning.

**Next meeting of the Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, February 12 at 1:30 P.M.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

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