TOWN OF SOMERS
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 12, 2013 MEETING

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chairman Amy Saada at 1:35 P.M.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pat Bachetti, Fran Boudreau and Jim Burgess

AUDIENCE: Cheryl Anderson, Linda Coleman and Joan Sizer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes of January 22, 2013 with a motion by Dory Bynack and a second by Phyliss Gwilliam with corrections suggested by Joan Sizer.

Chairman's Report – Amy reported the following:
- Work still needs to be done on the back room.
- Other updates still in process.
- Art wall will be set up for hanging painted pictures, etc.
- YMCA in Ellington will be having some Somers seniors coming in to take a tour of their facility. Two buses will be provided for people to go for the tour. They will give us an idea of the programs available for the seniors for a membership fee of $10 per month.
- Valentines Party scheduled for February 13 is being postponed until February 20 from one to three o'clock.
- Budget meeting was recently held. Amy asked for additional help in the form of a part-time senior center staff person, a full-time program coordinator and an additional part-time social services person.
- March has many upcoming programs. There will be an afternoon of Irish music on the 14th and an 8 year old piano player and showman from 1-2 P.M. on March 20th.

Meals on Wheels - Linda Coleman is working with the town treasurer to find out where this program stands financially. Double meals were delivered on Friday due to the coming snowstorm. Linda needs to check into insurance requirements for the drivers. One driver has given her the names of two new drivers interested in volunteering for this program.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti.is vacationing in Florida. No new updates.

Senior Club – Jim Burgess was not present. It appears that a problem has arisen with regard to the Tuesday morning coffee and donut hour. It must be realized that the senior

center staff does not start until 8:00 and does not need to arrive earlier to let people in to make the coffee, etc. Perhaps the time of the coffee hour could be slightly altered to keep everyone happy. Another item brought up was who should be responsible for the taking of names for the Wednesday lunches and contacting the caterer with the necessary number. It was suggested that Jim, as President, should be called at the present time. It is not the senior center staff responsibility to handle club activities.

Trips – Museum trip has been filled. Mohegan Sun trip sign-ups will start the first of the month, every other month, when trips start in March. The $20 fee is for trip/gratuity and a $15 coupon towards lunch at one of the restaurants.

OLD BUSINESS:
Pool table has been installed and is ready to be used by all. Many thanks goes to Amy for her willingness to "lend a hand" with the installation. Also in the Sun Room is a dart board, the ability to play ping pong or table tennis, etc. Ron Collyer is willing to provide training. It can be used for both recreational and competitive purposes. Room is open Monday thru Thursday from eight o'clock until four in the afternoon and on Friday from eight in the morning until one o'clock.

Ribbon Cutting ceremony was held on February 7 at which time a check for $10,000 was presented by USA Hauling and the girl scouts responsible for some of our recent updates were thanked for their efforts. A good showing of seniors was present. Pictures were taken by a photographer present and also by Joan Sizer.

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. This is extremely important in times of emergency such as the storm this weekend. Joan Sizer played an important role in working with town employees in trying to contact as many people in town with updates on what was going on in town during this storm. Perhaps e mail addresses could be put on future forms, etc.

Giving Back – Life experiences – Six people were interested in taking part in this program. Ron Collyer has spearheaded this. So far, personnel at the schools have been negligent in getting back to him with more information. It appears that the school day is crammed with many programs already which would result in time restrictions. Ron is going to try to work with the newly reactivated American Legion in hopes of developing a youth program in the future. Things look like they are hold up for the time being.

Senior Center Directors - 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. She has been in touch with directors from Ellington, Stafford, Suffield, Vernon and Windsor. She would like to visit with them and see what programs they offer, etc.

Free Computer Lessons - Phyliss also reported that Best Buy does provide free computer lessons to seniors. One catch – we do not have computers for this purpose. Perhaps one could become available?

Senior Day at the Capitol – The Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans is hosting Senior Day at the Capitol on Tuesday, May 14th. Time is from nine o'clock until one o'clock. Included in this day is a registration time, Continental breakfast, visit to area where lobbying takes place, a voucher for lunch in the cafeteria, etc. Senior bus will be available for this trip. There will probably be much interest in this trip. Phyliss has been gathering information on this event.

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

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 2:30P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING