

**TOWN OF SOMERS
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY
MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2013 MEETING**

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

AUDIENCE: Cheryl Anderson, Linda Coleman, Florence Hurley and Joan Sizer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes of February 13, 2013 with a motion by Ron Collyer and a second by Jim Burgess.

Chairman's Report – Amy reported the following:

- New bus driver (Gary Marharne) has been hired He has had all he proper pre-tests and is ready to go.
- Lunch and Learn program will be held once a month. You provide your own lunch and a special program will be featured each month.
- Middle School is planning a Senior Prom night for Friday, May 10th from 5 to 8 P.M. It will feature a Hawaiian theme. Fun will be had by all.
- Exercise program formerly held at Kibbe Fuller school has closed as of April 1.
- Another bus trip will be going to the Y in Ellington. Arrangements are being made to provide transportation to members of the Y on a weekly or bi-weekly basis.
- Gardiner Gerich will be doing a garden again this year. Ron Collyer is interested in sharing in part of this endeavor.
- Somers Prescription Card has been sent out to people in town and can be used to cover expenses not covered by your private insurance. It has been learned that pets are also covered with the necessary type of prescription.

Meals on Wheels - Linda Coleman has learned that there is some money in this account and is hoping to initiate a subsidized program starting July 1. More details will need to be developed on this. Program will be income based and based on level of need. Program will probably bring on more clients which, in turn, will require more drivers. Linda prepared an extensive report based on 2012 Activity for this program. She will continue to update this report and keep us informed as time goes on.

Communications – It is believed that Francis Boudreau has submitted a Letter of Resignation to the Board of Selectmen. It will be up to the Selectmen to choose another representative from the Woodcrest Housing to serve on the Advisory Board.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti has returned from Florida. She kept in touch with three people while down there. If anyone knows of a person staying at Blair Manor, please give Pat a call. Perhaps there is some kind of activity this board could help Pat do once a month at Blair Manor i.e., BINGO, etc. Think about it for next month.

Senior Club – Jim Burgess reported that he had two things he wanted to bring up. One was that the Club is trying to find ways to get more seniors involved in the Senior Center. Secondly, he wanted to know if there was a possibility of adding Senior Club news to the newsletter published by the staff of the senior center. Club would be willing to cover the additional expense of doing so. Much discussion arose on this subject and the outcome will be decided next month. We will discuss the pros and cons of doing so. The general feeling was that the Club would be better off preparing their own newsletter and sending it out to its members. The current newsletter prepared by the staff of the senior center does currently include meal information etc.

Publicity – Joan Sizer needs any articles we want placed in the local newspapers in her hands by the 20th of the month.

Trips – The Gwilliams have booked four trips to Mohegan Sun for the year. Past trip was in March and additional trips are planned for May, July and September. Phyliss is also in touch with several other senior centers and has expressed a desire to join forces with them on their planned trips. They would also be welcome to join forces with our trips. Other trips being planned by senior staff include the following:

- 4/22/13 Middlebury Consignment and Lunch (Filled)
- 5/30/13 Trader Joe's & Webs America's Yarn Store
- 6/13/13 Elizabeth Park
- 8/07/13 Triple Lobster at Hu Ke Lau with show
- 9/13/13 Four Town Fair
- 9/25/13 Big E
- 10/16/13 Shady Glen and Munson Candy
- 11/27/13 Manchester Mall and Area Shops
- 12/06/13 Governor's Mansion
- 12/23/13 Bright Nights at Forest Park

Additional day trips planned include going to the State Capitol on May 14, going to New York City on September 22 via King Ward bus and a trip to New Orleans in October.

OLD BUSINESS:

May 14 – State Capitol Bus Trip – Phyliss and Dave William have informed our State Representatives about our Somers people coming to the Capitol for this event and they have marked their calendars accordingly. Trip will include a free continental breakfast, a \$5.00 lunch coupon for use in the State cafeteria and much information via pamphlets, etc. One bus will run If possible, two will be used.

NEW BUSINESS:

Music – A music program will be featured at the Senior Center once a month through August. Cost will be \$2.00 for those attending, payable at the door.

Blair Manor – On April 16th, Blair Manor will offer a free meatloaf dinner followed by crafts, etc. It is hoped to hold this once a month.

Red Stone – This facility will be offering free crafts and desserts to the seniors monthly also. They will provide desserts after the music on April 10th and will feature a chicken lunch in May.

Free Computer Lessons - Phyliss is still working with Best Buy regarding free computer lessons. She has run into a snag and is working out the problem – even talking to the CEO to get some kind of an answer. They will supposedly donate \$1,000 towards equipment for use in the future. More details should be forthcoming on this.

Next meeting of the Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, May 21 at 1:30 P.M. Please note the date change for this meeting due to the trip to the State Capitol taking place on our normal meeting day.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING