

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY  
MINUTES OF JANUARY 13, 2015 MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Meeting called to order by Chairman Deanna Schuetz at 1:29 P.M.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Elaine Bemont, Dory Bynack, Ron Collyer, Eileen Fedorowich, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz and Joan Sizer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Pat Bachetti and Phyllis Gwilliam

**AUDIENCE:** Patty Dolan-LeMay, Florence Hurley

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of minutes from meeting of December 9, 2014 approved with motion by Ron Collyer and second by Dory Bynack with noted corrections on spelling of board member's name. Vote was unanimous.

Chairman's Report ó Deanna reported the following information to the board:

- FOI training is set for February 4 at 7:00 in the town hall auditorium.
- Interviews for the Human Services position have taken place and there are three acceptable candidates. This position should be filled very soon.
- Stuffed animals left from Christmas will be donated to SAFE for use by the police, etc. for needy children in trauma situations.
- Office space and privacy are serious issues that need to be dealt with. Social services will be taking over the sun room area and privacy dividers will be set up. The room will have its own door and all attempts to insure privacy will be dealt with.
- The old Human Services room will be available for use for meetings, card games, etc. A sign-up sheet will be used to keep track of who is using the room and when.
- The Health room works well for footcare. It does, however, need some updating and improvements.
- A FACEBOOK page is in the process of being set up for our seniors to view what is going on, see pictures, etc.

Meals on Wheels ó This program will be run by the new Human services employee. Seven people are currently utilizing the program. Billing process has been back and forth between the senior center and the town. It is now back in the hands of the senior center. Options for changing this program were discussed. One possibility is using CRT out of Hartford. Some clients may be able to get their meal at no cost if they qualify. Subsidy is 50% for those in need. CRT pays driver volunteers for their gas mileage and also does the time-consuming billing. Meals are individually packaged like TV dinners. No meals are delivered on Saturday but emergency meals are delivered if weather is bad. It is not sure if a minimum number of clients is required. Program is not designed for daily

lunches here at the center. Deanna will look further into this program. This program could grow substantially if the proper information was available. It can be utilized by those sixty years old or older and those on social security disability. Cost is \$2.50 per meal.

Senior Support ó Pat Bachetti has gone to the sunny south for a couple of months. She will, however, keep in touch with her 21 residents at Blair Manor via notes, cards, etc.

Publicity ó Joan Sizer reported that she does the publicity for the town such as the Mohegan bus trips and other trips coming up. She also takes pictures at many events and publishes these from time to time. Newspapers are very receptive to her reports. Mohegan bus trip is a very popular item and receives good response.

Senior Club News ó Dory Bynack reported on the club membership. Deanna attended a club meeting to try to figure how things are run and offer some ideas. Cut off date for paying 2015 dues is September 30. A Valentine party, with entertainment, is being planned for February 11. Possibility exists of putting the lunches on a prepay program due to the number of no-shows for which the club has to pay the price of their meal. It is hoped that the club and the senior center staff can work well together. It is also important to emphasize that the center is open to ALL seniors. The town provides a setting for the club to meet and, if desired, club benefits are available to those who are interested.

Events ó Upcoming events include a valentine's party, possible trip to the Trash Museum and events being held at the Bushnell. The Bushnell events will not be held during the winter months..

Woodcrest - Eileen reported that there is a Housing Commission meeting at Woodcrest on January 20 at 2:00 and this meeting is open to anyone. Some coming events there are information on -Options to lower your electric billö and öMaking sense out of the Medicare Systemö with Bill McClosky. An exercise group meets on Tuesday and Thursday and various card games and dominoes, etc. are played through the week. In February Woodcrest will be hosting a discussion about bringing routine dental care to their residents. Eileen brought a sample of Woodcrest's application for new residents but it is suggested that, if interested, you should call the office and pre-qualify before filling out the application. Eileen brings various flyers to the facility for their information. Deanna is going to meet with Fran Little in the near future.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Second new bus will be coming in late summer or early fall. Bereavement group is on hold for the time being. Senior center change in hours has gone off with no problems. Where do we stand in relation to honoring our centenarians Presley Blake, Herb Wells or any one else that is 100 years old?

**NEW BUSINESS:** Life line screening will be done at the senior center on April 30 and October 1. This is an important test being done at a reduced rate for our seniors. Income tax preparation appointments are being taken. Watch TV channels for information on senior center closures, late opening, etc.

**Next meeting of the Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, February 10, 2015 at 1:30.**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 2:40 P.M. by motion of Ron Collyer with a second by Aileen Henry.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

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