

**TOWN OF SOMERS  
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 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, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz and Joan Sizer

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Pat Bachetti

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Approval of minutes from meeting of January 13, 2015 approved with motion by Ron Collyer and second by Dory Bynack with noted corrections. Vote was unanimous.

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

- An FOI complaint against the Advisory Committee has been received. Complaint was filed by Linda Louise LaCasse regarding an elderly advisory meeting scheduled to take place on November 18, 2014 at 1:30. She was not able to find an agenda for the meeting or a time and place where the meeting was going to be held. The fact is that there was no meeting held on that date because there was no Senior Center Director at that time.
- Effective March 1, 2015, Town Hall hours will again be changed. Hours of operation will be from 8 to 5 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 8 to 6:30 on Thursday and closed all day Friday. Deanna has sent a proposal to the Board of Selectmen asking that the Senior Center be allowed to operate from 8 to 4 five days a week. She is waiting to hear from them on this issue.
- Christina Cenac was introduced to the Board. Christina is the new Social Services Assistant for the town of Somers. Her office is located in the former sun room of the senior center. It is hoped to make the panels outside her office a little more attractive. All in all, the location works well for privacy issues, etc. The old social services room will become a meeting room in the near future.
- New bus is in the process of being selected. According to the grant, bus is not supposed to go out of state. This may hamper some future planned trips. Delivery is expected in the fall of 2015.
- Facebook page is up and running under Somers Senior Center. Take a look!

Meals on Wheels – This program will be run by Christina Cenac. Seven people are currently utilizing the program. There is supposed to be a meeting today to discuss the future of the MOW program as we know it. Much discussion arose on this topic. Deanna handed out a listing of the advantages of going to CRT for meals rather than them being provided locally. The suggested donation for CRT meals is \$2.50 per meal –

hot or cold. Billing would be done by CRT. Emergency meals would be delivered on Friday if the need should arise. Background checks are done on drivers and volunteers are paid mileage. Our Human Services will still be responsible for coordination of volunteers, completing intakes for clients and keeping pertinent information, development of routes and packing meals. If the MOW program remains with the Plaza Restaurant, some protocol will need to be put in place. Members of the Board asked why drivers weren't being asked to attend this important meeting or why those receiving meals weren't asked how they felt about changing supplier, etc. It was felt that much more investigation still needed to be done on this whole situation.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti has gone to the sunny south for a couple of months. She keeps in touch with her 20 residents at Blair Manor via notes, cards, etc.

Publicity – 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. Her biggest problem is the frequent changes in town operating hours which affects her reports to the newspapers.

Senior Club News – Dory Bynack reported on the club membership. Menu for the month of March has been established. Pizza will stay on for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Corn beef and cabbage will be the following week. Valentine's party will be held tomorrow.

Events – Upcoming events include a trip to Better Connecticut on the 17<sup>th</sup> of February with another trip being planned for April, a trip to the Flower and Garden show on the 20<sup>th</sup> if there is enough interest. A trip to the Trash Museum on March 4<sup>th</sup>, a St. Pat's party on the 17<sup>th</sup> of March, and a trip to Storowtown to see Jimmy Mazz.

Woodcrest -. Deanna has met with Fran Little to determine what each of them do so as not to cause a lot of duplication. One concern was the lack of attendance by Woodcrest residents to attend events at the Senior Center.

OLD BUSINESS: Where do we stand in relation to honoring our centennarians ? Deanna will be in touch with Lisa Pellegrini regarding whether or not this should be a town event

Health Room – If anyone knows of any specifics to improve the looks, etc. of this room, let Deanna know. She is also looking to see if there might be a grant available for this purpose.

NEW BUSINESS: It is important to put together an emergency contact list for those seniors visiting the center. Information would need to be an emergency contact name, medical history, etc. For those refusing to give this information, they would need to sign a waiver stating so.

Event cancellation – It seems to be pretty clear that when the Somers schools are closed, so is the senior center. This info has been clearly put on several local TV stations .

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

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 2:45 P.M. by motion of Joan Sizer with a second by Ron Collyer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING