

**TOWN OF SOMERS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SENIORS
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2016 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chairman Deanna Schuetz at 1:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine Bemont, Dory Bynack, Eileen Fedorowich, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz, Joan Sizer and Tim Welch.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pat Bachetti

AUDIENCE: Tina Toohey – Motion made by Joan Sizer with a second by Ailene Henry allowing audience member to speak if she wished to.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes from meeting of January 12, 2016 with motion by Tim Welch and second by Dori Bynack approved with the following corrections:

Under Audience: Name should read Patricia Boudreau, not Bouchard

Under MOW: Several items should be noted under this category. Christina received complaints from a client's daughter stating that meals were not appropriate for her mothers diabetic diet She did not feel that the Plaza understood the dietary needs of diabetics. Daughter also inquired as to why MOW in Somers are provided by an establishment without a dietician on staff. Christina attempted to review client's nutritional needs with Kathy with no change. Problem was followed up by Christina and Kathy asked to have the client's daughter contact her directly. Condition seems to have improved.

Client went 5 days without meals after an accident and required a pureed food/soft food diet. Instead of changing the diet after Christina communicated this need, the Plaza stopped the meals.

Complaint received from MOW volunteer regarding illegible handwriting on the meals (CRT prints labels).

Deanna was contacted by CCCI inquiring as to why Somers does not contract with a CAP Agency to get their meals paid for in their entirety by this program.

Should clients communicate directly to the Plaza or directly to Christina with changes? If they report directly to Kathy, how will those changes get communicated to Christina to update the information for volunteers?

Nutritionist has been secured and meeting needs to be coordinated with Plaza once every 5 years.

Chairman's Report:

Budget: Deanna was pleased with the letters sent to the Board of Selectmen lending support for various programs. This action was well noted by the Town. As a result, there may possibly be an additional staff person at the Senior Center for 25 hours per week helping Flo with her workload. Deanna has also been working with a town employee as to how make better use of the space we have so more than one program can be running at a time. Additional space will be added to the newsletter allowing more information to be passed on to the seniors. Tim thanked Deanna for doing such a good job in presenting our needs to the town and securing additional monies in the budget.

Transportation: There was an article regarding transportation on the front page of the February newsletter. A packet is being put together on transportation. This will be given to all current and future riders of the bus.

Coffee Talk: This will be held on a quarterly basis with the next session planned for April 25, 2016 at 1:00. Subject will be Volunteers followed by an open discussion if time allows. People can place their questions in a box at the Senior Center if they wish. Deanna and Flo will be putting together a listing of what volunteers might be able to do. Tina Toohey said she would like to donate items for a free raffle which seems to go over quite well the last time. On April 11, there will be an upcoming event in honor of Volunteer Appreciation month.

Student Community Involvement Team Dinner: Students will be holding a dinner on March 18 with a cost of \$5.00. It is hoped to have a good attendance for this event. Night will feature board games, etc. It is hoped that our seniors get behind these kids.

Meals on Wheels – Kathy will be meeting with a nutritionist /dietician on February 29th. Emergency contact information is now available on file for all clients in this program. MOW is in desperate need for additional drivers. There are currently 13 clients. It is really too much for one person to do. Advertisements have been in the local papers and churches looking for volunteers for this program.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti is away so there was no new news on this program this month.

Senior Club – Dory reported that election time is coming up for the Club. Nomination Committee will present their choices on February 17 luncheon. Nominations can also be made from the floor on that date. Election will take place at the luncheon on March 16th. This luncheon will be the corned beef dinner followed by entertainment.

Publicity – Joan Sizer was thanked for her efforts to quell rumors that have been going around. There was a picture of Blair's lunch team at one recent dinner with a question as to who actually took the picture and was able to get it published in a local paper.

Woodcrest – Eileen reported that Sue Ashe from Blair Manor has been holding free exercise classes at Woodcrest twice a week and these are well attended. Deanna recently

sent a letter to Woodcrest and the Housing Authority regarding transportation. It should be noted that the same rules for bus transportation apply to residents of Woodcrest as well as any other senior living in town. Packets will be issued soon to both new and regular bus users. Eileen reported that she does not receive any town notices regarding referendums, elections, etc. Joan Sizer was going to look into that problem for her.

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS: Phyllis Gwilliam thought it would be a good idea to have someone come in periodically for legal advice for the seniors. Deanna responded that in April State Wide Legal Services would be coming to talk about elder law issues, etc.

Technology – Seniors are having trouble keeping up with all this new technology regarding I Phones, Tablets, Cell Phones, etc. It is hoped to find suitable trainees on these subjects....someone that has the patience to work with seniors. They don't need it done for them but they need someone to show them step-by-step how to do it. We need someone who can actually TEACH.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 3:05 by motion of Phyllis Gwilliam with a second by Ailene Henry

Next meeting of the Advisory Committee for Seniors will be held on March 10, 2016.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING