

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

August 09 2016

Present: Elaine Bemont, Dori Bynack, Eileen Fedorowich, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz, Tim Welch

Absent: Pat Bachetti, Joan Sizer

Audience: Tina Toohey

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by chairman Deanna Schuetz.

Minutes of last meeting: Dory moved and Eileen seconded the motion that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted as written.

Phyllis moved and Tim seconded a motion that audience participation be allowed.

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report:

- I. **Transportation Services:** Deanna presented a new transportation brochure and a revised registration form. A registration form needs to be filled out by each person who uses the bus and needs to be updated each year. Joe Carenzo has retired as bus driver leaving two part-time bus drivers. Deanna is looking for an additional driver with a special license. If a driver needs to apply for this license it can take up to 8 weeks to take effect.
- II. **Coffee Talk Series:** We discussed whether to continue this series four times a year since attendance has been dwindling. We decided that we need to keep the door open for suggestions from the community but maybe decrease the frequency of meeting. At the last Coffee Talk, a suggestion was made to make a flyer advertising the Senior Center and distribute it at town concerts. This was done at 2 concerts resulting in a few calls about programs. The next Coffee Talk will be in October when we will introduce the new Senior Center software. This software should be in place within the next month. It will facilitate registration and the keeping of statistics about the use of the Center. There will be the ability to use robocalls to remind people of upcoming programs.
Thank you to Tina for providing the raffle as incentive to attend the Coffee Talks.

There will be a new Senior Center assistant very soon.

Eileen asked about a possible expansion of the Senior Center. Deanna reported that a building assessment of all town buildings is underway. Accurate use of statistics and the best use of the facility we have will demonstrate need. Parking has been assessed and the need is not being ignored but a paved parking lot is pricey and we want a total plan to be done right.

The SCAMPER program, an intergenerational program with seniors and children's day camp, went very well. Many positive comments.

III. **Upcoming Programs/Events/Trips: see attached page for all programs**

8/18 Cecilia Becker from Somers Library will lead a program on transferring/organizing digital photos.

9/2 The diabetes support group will continue. Six people attended the first program so it will continue one time a month and we hope the attendees will be committed for ongoing attendance.

9/9 Alzheimer's Association and Springfield Neurology. Springfield Neurology is doing clinical trials for Alzheimer's patients in Springfield, an opportunity that local people might be unaware of.

9/12 Since September is national Senior Center Month there will be a catered barbeque and entertainment.

9/26 A local woman will hold a craft class using her home grown apple gourds. A fee will pay for the gourds, other supplies and the class.

9/27 Big E trip: Dory suggested that the bus leave plenty of time because of heavy traffic.

9/30 Lunch and Learn: Emergency Preparedness: The Somers CERT Team will give information and supplies relating to emergency preparedness.

b. Meals on Wheels: The Plaza restaurant is under new management and with a new name, Hometown Kitchen. MOWs meal preparation will remain the same. There has been an increase in clients receiving meals and there are enough volunteers at present. Application for CRT meals has been submitted but there is a wait list.

c. Senior Support: Pat continues to be in contact with several residents at Blair Manor and reports positive feedback from a new administrator there.

d. Senior Club: Dory reported that 28 members, who have not been active for 2 years, have been put on a "pending" list, leaving 177 active members.

The club held a summer picnic with entertainment.

Eileen suggested that there be 2 sittings for the Dion Lunch since there were a large number of people last year who were not able to attend. She will speak with club president, Dan Fraro. Members pay up front for the meal but get their money back if they attend. This solves the problem of "no-shows".

e. Publicity: Nothing reported.

f. Woodcrest: Eileen has started a welcome program for new residents at Woodcrest, giving out helpful information from the Senior Center and Woodcrest. There was one new resident last month and 2 new couples plan to move in in August.

There have been 2 recent fires at Woodcrest. The Somers Fire Dep't will hold a fire safety workshop. There was recognition of residents who helped respond to the fire and stayed to help residents and the fire dep't.

Woodcrest management held a summer barbeque to help residents from all areas become acquainted.

Old Business: Deanna stated that there needs to be a vice-chairman for our committee to lead the meeting if she has to be away. Deanna would meet with the person prior to the meeting. Eileen volunteered to do this. Since 2 members were absent today, if anyone else wishes to do

this we could take nominations and hold an election at our next meeting. Eileen suggested that this could be a rotating position. This will be revisited at our next meeting.

Deanna and Flo are still working on moving things from the large storage room so it can be used as a meeting room. The storage of the previous foot-care room needs to be redone and additional storage space can be available inside the door to the portico.

New Business: none

Phyllis moved and Elaine seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted
Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.