

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

October 11 2016

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

Absent: Joan Sizer

Audience: Tina Toohey

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

Minutes of last meeting: Minutes of the last meeting were approved as written. Eileen moved and Phyllis seconded that audience participation be allowed.

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report:

I. AARP income tax preparation: Deanna has been informed that Somers will no longer be a site for tax preparation because of lack of wi-fi and printers and also because of lack of volunteer tax preparers. Deanna said that equipment could be provided but lack of volunteers seems an insurmountable problem.

II. Senior Center Updates: The new touch screen technology is going well. The new reception station gives privacy and professionalism. There is new storage space near the carport exit so now there is room to move items out of the large closet so that room could be renovated for a meeting room.

III. Trip Cancellation Policy: Both buses are in use every day for appointments etc. We want to continue providing local bus trips but when not enough people sign up to fill the bus it is a problem. Deanna asked for some parameters to decide when to cancel a trip. Consensus was there needs to be 10 people signed up (bus holds 13 passengers) and a week before the event will be the cut off time.

IV. Technology Classes: Wayne Marshman has agreed to be a presenter for an iPad class, however the Senior Center has no convenient time in Nov. or Dec. and Wayne is not available after that. Senior Center staff will look at finding another presenter for early in 2017. Florence reached out to the National Honor Society for students to help with cell phone classes, however the faculty advisors have changed. She will continue to try to contact the new advisors.

V. Upcoming Senior Center Trips/Events/Programs: Deanna distributed a list of October and November events. There has not been a good response for the "Intrepid" trip on Nov. 10 but it is not totally off the table. The Veterans' Day celebration will feature a local Dixieland band. There was a concern that the "Reverse Mortgage" program should present both pros and cons of this program.

VI. Location of Next Meeting: The Town Hall will not be available for our Nov. meeting so we will meet in the boardroom at the Somers library.

- b. Meals on Wheels:** Program is going well with about 20 clients and some new volunteers.
- c. Senior Support:** Pat keeps in monthly contact with 14 people. The program is well received.
- d. Senior Club:** Dory reported that there are 181 active members for 2015 and 2016. There are 30 pending members. Because of the large numbers of members wishing to attend the Dion lunch, there will be two dates, Oct. 26 when the menu will be roast beef and Nov. 2 when roast pork will be served. Members can sign up for both meals if they wish but only one will be free. Sign up will be at the Wed. lunch, Oct.19, and there is a limit of 60 for each meal. Deanna will invite president Dan Fraro to attend one of our future meetings.
- e. Publicity:** No report.
- f. Woodcrest:** The Housing Authority has not met for the past 2 months. Eileen continues to welcome new residents and more Woodcrest residents are coming to the Senior Center. Eileen mentioned free phone service and said that notices are going out to inform people that there is an update from 2G to 3G service.

Old Business: A paper vote was held and Pat was elected our new vice chairman.

New Business: Phyllis asked if a Christmas trip to the Governor's mansion is planned. This will not happen because of problems arranging this last year. There will be a trip to the Wadsworth for their Christmas tree display and a trip to see the Christmas lights in Hartford. Tim moved and Elaine seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Meeting was adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.