

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

December 13 2016

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

Audience: Janet Gawle

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

Elaine moved and Joan seconded a motion that audience participation be allowed.

Minutes of last meeting: Joan asked that section IId of the 11/18/16 minutes read "club officers Ann Murphy, Bev Guimond and Dory Bynack were present". And "periodic mailings" be changed to "monthly mailings". Tim moved and Pat seconded that the minutes of the last meeting be approved as amended.

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report:

I. Technology Classes: Communication with the high school National Honor Society has resulted in no commitments for volunteer help. Other suggestions were to contact Asnuntuck CC and/or Manchester CC or the high school guidance department and also to put another request for help in the newsletter. Cecelia Becker from the Somers library is willing to help one on one. Individuals would have to contact her directly.

II. Upcoming Senior Center Trips/Events/Programs: Deanna distributed a list of December and January events and trips. Complete list is available on request. The trip to the Wadsworth was cancelled for lack of interest. It's becoming difficult to accommodate all regular daily passengers with only one bus. This may impact trips. Two additional events were noted – Jan. 4, a medical equipment check and Jan. 13, a movie – "It's Complicated".

b. Meals on Wheels: Program is going well. New owner of "Hometown Kitchen" is helpful with the program. Poinsettias will be given to all MOWs recipients.

c. Senior Support: Pat keeps in monthly contact with people at Blair Manor with holiday goodies and cards. The program is well received.

d. Senior Club: Dory reported that there are 187 active members. There are 29 pending members. The executive board is working on revising the by-laws. Jim Bealieu, the club's financial advisor, will speak at an upcoming meeting. Dory will research IRS rules for a non-profit 501c7 organization.

We talked about how to deal with people acting inappropriately at Senior Club or Senior Center events. Deanna suggested that she could talk to the town attorney and the Selectmen about forming an official policy. Meanwhile, if the occasion arises, Deanna and Dan Fraro, Senior Club president, will meet with the individual.

e. Publicity: No report.

f. Woodcrest: Eileen continues to welcome new residents and more Woodcrest residents are coming to the Senior Center. The Housing Authority monthly meetings are open to the public.

Old Business: The January edition of the newsletter will review senior bus regulations. We now have 3 bus drivers who are very helpful and compatible. We decided to delay the next "Coffee Talk" until June.

Deanna, as a CHOICES person, has been meeting with people needing help with Medicare enrollment. This was the first year this has been publicized and there has been a large number of requests for help.

The Human Services "Season of Giving" has had a good response with many contributions to the town emergency fund and to the Adopt a Family program. Deanna will ask local businesses to contribute to the emergency fund. Starting this coming Saturday, we will partner with Geisslers to ask for contributions to the emergency fund. Thanks to all the volunteers for ringing the bells for the Salvation Army contributions. Next summer there will be a fund-raising event at Sonny's Place.

New Business: none

Moved by Joan and seconded by Pat, the meeting was adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.