

## Town of Somers

### Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

April 11 2017

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

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 pm by chairman Deanna Schuetz.

**Minutes of last meeting:** Eileen moved and Dory seconded that the Feb. minutes be approved as written. Our March meeting was cancelled because of bad weather.

**Audience:** Tina Tooley

#### **Committee Updates:**

##### **a. Chairman's Report:**

- I. **Not In My Town:** There will be a program on April 20 at the town hall about the problem of substance abuse with a resource fair at 5:30 and a panel discussion at 6:00. There will be the opportunity to turn in unused medication.
  - II. **Home Helpers Program:** Home helpers will provide a catered complementary lunch on the first Monday of each month beginning in May. In combination with this they will facilitate a caregivers support group.
  - III. **Lifeline screenings:** We discussed the pros and cons of continuing to have the Lifeline screening program at the senior center. Deanna will do some research about the program and whether other senior centers host this program. Revisit at our next meeting.
  - IV. **Upcoming Senior Center Trips/Events/Programs:** Deanna distributed a list of April and May events and trips. Complete list is available on request. May is Older Americans Month with a theme of "Age Out Loud". The diabetes support group has dwindled and probably will be discontinued. Phyllis suggested that diabetic information meetings could be held periodically rather than monthly.
- b. **Meals on Wheels:** Program is going well with 16 clients and enough volunteers. Deanna reported that the MOW fund is running low. This is a fund used to supplement the cost of the meals for eligible clients. The Town of Somers does not provide money for this. Deanna will reevaluate the parameters for subsidies. At present several clients are receiving a 90% subsidy. Meals cost \$4.00 for a hot meal and \$3.00 for a cold meal. Deanna will give advance notice to recipients if the subsidy is going to be cut back or unavailable. Ailene will write an article for the June senior newsletter and the newspaper about the Somers MOW program, about the need to supplement the fund and giving credit to the Hometown Kitchen (Plaza) Restaurant for their support since 1981 when the program was started.
  - c. **Senior Support:** Pat is in touch with 14 people and will be sending them Easter cards and gifts. These are much appreciated by the residents and staff at Blair Manor
  - d. **Senior Club:** Dory reported 153 paid members. The by-laws have been revised and approved. We again discussed whether Senior Club information will be published in the Senior Newsletter. In January, we voted that club events, indicated by an asterisk, would be published in the newsletter for three months. Since this has not been made clear to president Dan Fraro, Deanna will invite him to our next meeting to discuss this.

e. **Publicity:** There were two recent newspaper articles – one about a grant for a new bus and one about high school students providing tech support.

f. **Woodcrest:** Eileen will welcome 3 new residents. There has been an improvement in communications between the senior center and Woodcrest resident services coordinator.

**Old Business:**

**Emergency Registry:** Deanna has checked with the Somers Fire Dep't and with CERT and there is no emergency registry in Somers at present. She has reached out to other communities and has had 10 replies. She will put together all gathered information pointing out plusses and minuses of such a program.

**New Business:**

**Meeting Location:** It is possible that the new meeting room at the senior center will be available for our next meeting. Deanna will inform the committee of the May location.

**Nov. Ballot:** Tim reported that on the Nov. ballot there may be an item about the senior center – renovation of the existing building with a 3000 sq. ft. addition or a new construction. This comes as a result of the Selectmen's strategic planning initiative.

Moved by Tim and seconded by Phyllis our meeting was adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.