

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

May 09 2017

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

Absent: Elaine Bemont

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

Minutes of last meeting: Deanna corrected the spelling of Dori's and Tina Toohey's name and said that the Home Helpers will facilitate an Alzheimers caregivers' support group. Joan moved and Pat seconded that the minutes be approved as amended.

Audience: none

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report:

I. Lifeline Screenings: Deanna has reached out to other Senior Centers asking them about their experience with Lifeline screenings and provided committee members with a written report. Opinions were mixed. Eileen questioned what the qualifications of the Lifeline personnel are. Tim had checked the better Business Bureau website and said reviews are mixed. The program used to be held twice a year at the Senior center but recently has been once a year. Since having the program at the Senior Center disrupts usual activities it was suggested that the program could be held at another venue in town like the firehouse. Deanna will reach out to the fire dep't about this. No decision was made about whether to continue with this program.

II. Emergency Registry: An Emergency Registry would be a specific list of people in town unable to function independently in a disaster situation. Deanna reached out to Somers CERT, DPW, Police and Fire dep't. All were in support/willing to assist. She also reached out to other Senior Centers and provided the committee members with their responses. Problems were discussed such as liability issues, privacy issues and problems with keeping the list accurate and up-to-date. Some concerns were expressed about emergency preparedness at Woodcrest. Joan will research the town charter. We will revisit the emergency registry discussion at our August meeting.

III. Upcoming Senior Center Trips/Events/Programs: Deanna distributed a list of May and June events and trips. Complete list is available on request.

Now that a new room is available at the Senior Center, new programs can be added such as chair yoga starting June 12 – a weekly program, \$5.00 per session, pay as you go. Cribbage will start on June 12.

Deanna is working with Chris Boucher from the Recreation Dep't on having a summer combined children's and senior program as we did last year. There will be 5 programs on Tuesdays. Deanna asked for new ideas.

b. Meals on Wheels: Deanna gave written information about the MOW subsidy program. Under the current program, 9 people have been receiving a 75% subsidy and the MOW fund is running low. Deanna propose a revised subsidy program that would more closely match the money that is spent on subsidies with the money that the fund has available.

Ailene gave a brief history of the program. We discussed the criteria for clients to join the program emphasizing the need for them to be “homebound”. Ailene will research a definition of “homebound” as applying to this program.

We looked at a letter that Ailene had written to reach out to the community requesting donations to replenish the MOW fund. With a few amendments, Deanna will send this to various local publications. She will also include the MOW fund in the Season of Giving campaign.

Ailene expressed a concern that one of the MOW clients needs a cooler where volunteers can leave her meal.

c. Senior Support: Pat is in touch with 12 people.

d. Senior Club: Dory reported 155 paid members. There will be a picnic in July. At our June meeting, Dan Fraro, president of the Senior Club will be present to answer questions.

e. Publicity: No report.

f. Woodcrest: Eileen will welcome 6 new residents. Rules and times for pest spraying have been given to residents. Eileen will contact the Boy Scouts about possibly installing a clothesline at Woodcrest. Dori suggested that the American Legion might donate an American flag to Woodcrest.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Next meeting Tuesday June 13 at Senior Center.

Moved by Phyllis and seconded by Dori our meeting was adjourned at 3:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

