

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

August 08 2017

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

Absent: Pat Bachetti

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

Tim moved and Eileen seconded the motion that the minutes of the June 2017 meeting be approved with the amendment that the next meeting date is Aug. 08 not Aug. 15.

Audience: Fran Golden, Tina Toohey, Marie Williams, Ed Zawicki

Tim moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that audience participation be permitted.

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report:

I. Senior Center Policies and Procedure Manual Sub-Committee: Our plan to have a rough draft of policies and procedures at this meeting was overly optimistic. Deanna informed us that a sub-committee must post an agenda and meeting dates like a full committee. There must be three voting members with Deanna acting as advisor. There must be minority representation related to political affiliation. Deanna read a list of eligible committee members. Pat B. had previously said that she would be willing to serve and is eligible. Ailene moved and Elaine seconded that we nominate Pat as the third member. There was a short discussion about the fact that Pat is away for several weeks in winter. Tim moved and Phyllis seconded that we accept Pat as the third member of the sub-committee.

II. Transportation Policy: Deanna informed us that our Dial-a-Ride service is a "curb-to-curb" service rather than a "door-to-door" service which means that the bus cannot pick up clients in their driveway. They must be picked up at the curb. This was directed by the town operations director and by our insurance carrier. The policy has been in force for 2 weeks. Deanna is looking into whether this is a conflict of ADA regulations.

III. Non-resident Policy: Our bus can take 14 passengers for local trips and these trips have been available only for Somers residents. At a previous meeting we decided that if there were less than 10 people signed up a week before the event the trip would be cancelled. A policy in the August newsletter stated that if not enough Somers residents had signed up a week in advance non-residents could sign up.

Deanna stated that, because of a staff error, non-residents were allowed to sign up for the Sept. 20 trip to Goodspeed before Somers resident sign up was complete. There is a charge for this trip. Deanna made a decision that the non-residents would be allowed to stay on the trip and asked for committee input on this decision. Marie Williams read a letter complaining about this decision as unfair to Somers residents. After some discussion that this was unfortunate and an apology made to Marie, Eileen moved and Elaine seconded a motion to uphold the decision previously made by Deanna.

IV. Upcoming Senior Center Trips/Events/Programs: Deanna distributed a list of August and September events and trips. Complete list is available on request.

At present there is no policy in place that distinguishes between residents and non-residents for signing up for Senior Center events. For some popular events, numbers have to be limited to 70 people for safety reasons. Fran Golden, a Somers resident, made a complaint that she was not able to sign up for the National Senior Center Month event because non-residents had signed up before she was able to contact the Senior Center. As Senior Center events become more popular and widely known we need to have a policy which is fair to residents without being exclusionary to non-residents. Joan moved and Dory seconded a motion that, effective with new events posted in the September Senior newsletter, there will be a sign-up start date for each event on which Somers residents can begin to make a reservation. Five business days after that date non-residents can begin to make reservations.

For large trips there are no restrictions as of this time.

V. Lifeline: Somers firehouse will be the new venue for Lifeline. Next program is Nov. 15.

b. Meals on Wheels: The program is going well. We decided to table the discussion of the homebound criteria until our September meeting.

c. Senior Support: Pat is in touch with 13 people. She will work with the new recreation director at Blair Manor and continue to send cards and treat bags. Pat offered to add others to her list if anyone knows of someone in need.

d. Senior Club: Dory reports 163 members. Their business meeting is Aug. 9. On the agenda is a quarterly newsletter and insurance coverage. Deanna states that the September newsletter will be the last to contain info about the Senior Club. She reported 29 inquiries about the Senior Club to Sr. Center staff during the past month.

e. Publicity: No report.

f. Woodcrest: Eileen has welcomed 15 new people and given information about services available to new residents.

Old Business: Emergency Registry: Decided to table discussion until our September meeting. We will talk about whether to implement a program and if so how to maintain it. Will it dovetail with CERT and public safety.

Coffee Talk: September 18. We will review new Sr. Center policies. Tina Toohey offered a donation for a raffle.

Appreciation was expressed for well run trips and for the SCAMPER programs.

New Business: none

Ed Zawicki introduced himself as a candidate for First Selectman and thanked the group for their work.

Next meeting September 12.

Moved by Joan and seconded by Dory our meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

