

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

October 10 2017

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.

Pat moved and Tim seconded the motion that the minutes of our 09/12/17 meeting be approved as written.

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report:

I. ADA Compliance Officer update: Kim LaFleur, Town of Somers Operation Manager, will be the town ADA Compliance Officer.

II. Senior/Disabled Transportation: Deanna distributed a letter from CIRMA (Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency), an agency that the town uses for insurance purposes, stating "best practices for proposed senior transportation services". The first item states "Curb-to-curb service is recommended, to eliminate potential hazards due to backing vehicles". Since our committee is an advocate for Seniors, several members questioned whether it is in the best interest of our frail, elderly citizens to have to navigate driveways to meet the bus at the curb. There was a question about whether when the insurance contract comes up for bid if another carrier would have different restrictions. Disappointment was expressed in the process whereby the selectmen held a special meeting including this issue and did not inform our committee. Deanna stated that this policy will not change and effort should be put into finding alternate transportation solutions for seniors who cannot navigate long driveways.

Deanna stated that we are undergoing an audit by the DOT and FTA. Because there are many restrictions with grant-funded transportation the town is considering a non-grant-funded bus.

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

b. Policies and Procedures Manual Subcommittee Update: Each member of the subcommittee has a section to work on. There is a lot of information to process and it is time consuming but they are making progress and there is no time limit for completion.

c. Meals on Wheels: As requested by the committee at our last meeting, Ailene drafted a letter on behalf of the Advisory Committee asking the Senior Club for a donation for MOW. After some discussion about whether the letter should be sent now or wait for the "Season of Giving" program, Phyllis moved and Eileen seconded the motion that the letter as written should be sent now.

We looked at 6 different statements of eligibility criteria for MOW clients submitted by committee members. We decided to look these over and try to consolidate them and continue the discussion at our Nov. meeting.

Ailene stated that she has been looking at the MOW hot meals over the past few months and has a concern about the nutritional quality. The addition of more fruits and

vegetables would improve the quality. Deanna stated that the restaurant that prepares the meals is going to publish a monthly menu. When we see that we will continue this discussion. The committee is grateful to the Hometown Kitchen restaurant for preparing the meals.

Senior Support: Pat is in contact with 10 people. If Blair Manor closes, Pat will try to keep in touch with as many of her contacts as possible.

d. Senior Citizens' Club: Membership is 166. The annual Dion lunch was held on the past 2 Wednesdays.

f. Publicity: No report.

g. Woodcrest: Eileen has resigned as a commissioner on the Housing Authority but plans to continue to attend meetings as a resident of Woodcrest. There is an issue at present that the annual propane bill which is for maintenance of equipment has been raised by 50%. Woodcrest management will discuss this with their lawyers.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Next meeting: November 14.

Moved by Phyllis and seconded by Dory our meeting was adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

