

Town of Somers CT

Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Seniors

December 12, 2017

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

Absent: Aileen Henry, Elaine Bemont

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 by Chairman Deanna Schuetz.

Meeting Minutes 11/14/2017

Meeting Minutes clarified as follows:

A. Chairman's Report

2. Renters Rebate Program: Somers Human Services does not have enough information from the State of CT to advise their clients about program changes at this time.

3. MEDICARE SAVINGS Program: The second sentence was clarified to "It puts them on a program that helps pay for prescriptions and for the lowest income seniors, pays all MEDICARE deductibles and coinsurance. Income guidelines have been cut in half."

Amended meeting minutes accepted.

Committee Updates:

a. **Chairman's Report**

I. **Renter's Rebate Program**

After this year, CT Office of Policy & Management will cover ½, towns will cover the other ½ up to \$250,000. This is approximately a \$24,000 new expense for the Town of Somers.

Medicare Savings Program

Implementation of proposed changes (increased expense to program participants) has been postponed by the Legislature. An implementation date/program details have not been determined/shared with the public.

II. **Senior Center Programs/Events/Trips.**

There have been changes in event popularity/participation. Some events were cancelled and others have had increased attendance. Schedule changes are still in process for the New Year.

B. Meals on Wheels

Meal recipients are pleased. An additional request for a menu will be made. Meal nutrition is still an issue for some Committee members but no questions/complaints have been received from meal recipients. Committee members feel that this is a significantly important program to Somers residents.

C. Senior Support/Community Outreach

There are now 5 people being served.

D. Senior Citizens Club

168 members. The Tuesday donut fund is seeing diminished yeast.

E. Publicity

No report

F. Woodcrest

Discussion ensued with respect to the increase propane expenses and how this could be handled by their residents. Additional discussion was had with respect to communicating with Woodcrest residents the changes to Medicare Savings Program. A copy of the material sent to Woodcrest residents by Woodcrest staff was shared with Deanna and she responded to Woodcrest staff citing questions/inaccuracies in their resident communication.

5 Old Business

Nothing reported.

6. New Business

A motion was made to acknowledge Somers Advisory Committee Member and Secretary Aileen Henry and her husband Roland for being awarded the Somers Rotary Clubs Humanitarian Award for a Lifetime of Service Above Self.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Tim Welch and seconded by Phyllis Gwilliam at 2:53.
Motion accepted.