

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

January 09 2018

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

Absent: Joan Sizer

Audience: none

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm by chairman Deanna Schuetz.

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

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report

I. Medicare Savings Program Update: In a special session on Jan. 8, the state legislature reinstated the original income guidelines for the Medicare Savings Program with an extension until the end of the fiscal year, July 1, 2018. Deanna has reached out to the resident services coordinator at Woodcrest to let residents there know that CHOICES counsellors are available at the Senior Center if they need help with Medicare problems.

II. Senior Center Programs/ Events/Trips:

There is minimal programming during January and February apart from regularly scheduled events. More programming will resume in March.

Deanna reached out to the teacher/advisors for the SCIT Club at Mabelle B Avery school to ask about their annual Senior Citizen program. This will not happen this year because of lack of funding.

The monthly Home Helpers' luncheon will be limited to 30 people.

Mohegan Sun Trip: This is the first month that this trip will be on Tuesday and the cost will increase to \$30. Sign up has been slow. Post Road Tours has offered a 30 passenger bus.

There is a one week cancellation deadline for low attendance. There is a 6 hour cancellation time for bad weather.

Local trips on the Somers bus will resume in March.

In 2019 there will be a Hawaii cruise. Several day trips will be listed in the newsletter.

Senior Center staff has reached out to the High School for students to help seniors with tech support. This has been difficult to schedule. Pam is willing to help one on one with tech problems.

Sometimes the Senior Center programs overlap with library programs.

b. Meals on Wheels: Deanna previously sent committee members a list of special requests from MOW clients. The Hometown Kitchen Restaurant which makes the meals is willing to provide diets like low sodium and diabetic diets and take allergies into consideration but it is too difficult to honor likes and dislikes and this should not be expected of them. We discussed the application form that prospective clients fill out and whether the clients receive instructions about what they can expect from the program such as no special requests and the fact that clients should not call the restaurant directly but should communicate through Christina, MOW coordinator. Deanna will email a copy of

the application to committee members so we can consider amending it as necessary. Maybe a refrigerator magnet could be given to clients with information including Christina's phone number. Ailene will research this.

Pat asked personnel at the restaurant if they would include a vegetable with the meals. She received a positive response to this request.

Christina has been working on a snow day meal for the clients – non-perishable items that could be eaten if meals cannot be delivered. Ailene volunteered to take on this responsibility.

Pat suggested and agreed to write a letter of thanks to Colleen, owner of the Hometown Kitchen Restaurant on behalf of the Advisory Committee.

Deanna researched whether there are other CT towns that have a non-subsidized MOW program. Madison CT is the only other one found.

- c. **Senior Support:** Since Blair Manor has closed, we discussed other ways to support seniors. After considering a few options we decided that Pat would send cards to MOW clients on birthdays and special holidays.
- d. **Senior Citizens' Club:** Membership is 170 with 2 prospective members. The newsletter for Jan, Feb and March has gone out. Thank-you cards will be sent to people who have helped the club throughout the year. The annual corned beef and cabbage dinner will be held on March 14 with Dee Riley as entertainer.
Deanna commented that the Senior Club Facebook page still has a picture of the Senior Center. Several members of the club have not registered with the Senior Center. Dory will email a membership list to Deanna to cross check. Dory will follow up with those members.
- e. **Publicity:** Joan submitted a newspaper article about the Mohegan Sun trip. An article appeared in the Journal Inquirer about Senior Center activities and budget cut-backs.
- f. **Woodcrest:** The issue of the increase of the propane bill has not been resolved. The chairman of the Housing Authority has said he would contact legal help and advised residents to not pay their entire gas bill. The Woodcrest CO and fire alarms are out of date. The Housing Authority, at their next meeting, will discuss replacement. Eileen will continue to pursue these issues as a resident.

Old Business: none

New Business: none

Next meeting: February 13, 2018

Moved by Tim and seconded by Dory our meeting was adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

