

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

May 8 2018

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

Audience: none

The meeting was called to order at 1:28 pm by chairman Deanna Schuetz.

Dory moved and Joan seconded the motion that the minutes of the April 10 and April 17 2018 meetings be accepted as written. Motion carried.

Committee Updates:

a. Chairman's Report

I. Medicare Savings Program Update: May 9 is the last day of the current legislative session and a decision about the MSP as of today has not been made.

II. New Bus: A new bus has been ordered with 10 seats and 2 wheelchair spots and with safety features like retractable seat belts and arm rests and a sturdy suspension.

III. Upcoming Senior Center programs/events: Deanna distributed a list of upcoming events for May, June and July. A few trips have been cancelled because of reduced sign-ups. The attendance for the Mohegan Sun trip has dropped since the trip day was changed from Friday to Tuesday. The July trip will be on a Friday to see if this makes a difference. There will be articles in the newspaper and newsletter about upcoming trips. We will be decreasing trips on the Somers Senior bus because we only have 2 buses and both are needed for regular daily trips.

b. Meals on Wheels: The program seems to be running smoothly. After reviewing the MOW application form, several suggestions for changes were made. Deanna will compile the suggestions and make a clean copy for review and approval at our next meeting.

c. Senior Support/Community Outreach: Pat reported that she sends cards to 10 MOW clients once a month and on birthdays and special holidays and signs them from the Advisory Committee.

d. Senior Citizens' Club: Membership is 184. The bylaws change about adhering to Senior Center policies and procedures was introduced to the membership and will be brought to the members for a vote at the next full membership meeting. There will be a Fourth of July party on July 11.

e. Publicity: There will be one more newsletter sent by mail. After that, the hard copy newsletter will be available at the Senior Center and other locations around town. There will also be publicity about events in local newspapers.

f. Woodcrest: A fire marshal was on site the weekend of April 28/29.

Since several Woodcrest residents spoke to Deanna about the propane fee, she brought it to the attention of the First Selectman who spoke with David Pinney about the issue.

Old Business: The Code of Conduct document was sent to the town attorney for approval. After his review, it will go to the Board of Selectmen. Deanna will let the committee know when the BOS will discuss this.

New Business: Phyllis voiced a safety concern about multiple people being in the kitchen at the same time pouring coffee. After some discussion Elaine moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that we look into purchasing insulated coffee carafes and have these available on the pass-through counter. Phyllis and Pat will research carafes.

Eileen expressed an objection to a statement in the First Selectman's article in the most recent newsletter. After some discussion it was decided that individuals could protest this issue if they wished but it was not an issue for the committee.

Tim pointed out a newspaper article about the Coventry Senior Center reducing open hours to correspond with town hall hours saying that the Somers Senior Center seems to be well used in all the hours it is open. This discussion was tabled until our next meeting.

Next regular meeting: June 12, 2018.

Moved by Joan and seconded by Dory our meeting was adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

