

Town of Somers

Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors

September 11, 2018

Present: Pat Bachetti, Dori Bynack, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Carol Sarrantonio, Deanna Schuetz, Tina Toohey, Tim Welch,

Absent: Joan Sizer

Audience: Marie Williams

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

2. **Amendments to 08/14/18 meeting minutes:** We talked about factors that are considered in recommending new Advisory Committee members. There was a brief discussion about the First Selectman's contribution to the newsletter. Tim moved and Pat seconded the motion that the minutes be accepted as amended. Motion carried.

4. **Committee Updates:**

a. **Chairman's Report:**

I. Senior Center events/programs/trips/newsletter: Deanna made available a list of remaining September programs and upcoming October programs. There will be a newsletter for October alone rather than a 2 month newsletter since there are additional items to report such as CHOICES counselling and the Season of Giving. There is money available for this. Tim suggested and prepared an outline for a possible evening program for residents who have older parents who may need services. Deanna said a reasonable time goal for this would be Spring 2019 because of the amount of planning/publicity involved.

Deanna has been asked and we discussed if we would ever have a provider fair. This would take considerable coordination and a larger venue than the Senior Center.

We talked about programs for seniors age 55 to 70. Travel programs seem the most attractive. There will be a program at the Senior Center on Oct. 27, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm to dispose of expired, unwanted, or unused prescription drugs and other medications. This will be outside the Sr. Ctr. At present there is a drop-off site for unwanted meds at the Somers Resident Troopers office, 451 Main St.

The return of the Mohegan trip to a Friday time has proved successful.

II. Senior Center garden: The garden is no longer in use and has been removed to provide additional parking.

b. **Meals on Wheels:** Ailene suggested we might consider biodegradable, eco-friendly containers for the meals rather than Styrofoam and provided pricing information. If the price is greater than styrofoam, the Hometown Kitchen could be reimbursed from the MOW fund. Idea tabled for now.

Deanna suggested that if a MOW client dies, the bill for that month could be waived. Dori moved and Tina seconded a motion that when a client dies, Human Services will send a condolence letter to the family and waive the last month's balance. Motion carried.

Pat suggested delivering the newsletter to MOW clients. Deanna will talk with Christina about putting the newsletters in the MOW binders for volunteers to deliver.

c. **Senior Support/Community Outreach:** Pat reported 10 on her list.

d. **Senior Citizens' Club:** 195 members. No summer board meetings. Dion lunch will be in October with 2 sessions.

e. **Publicity:** Deanna will send Sr. Ctr. news to the North Central News. Having the newsletter available at various venues around town is working well.

f. **Woodcrest:** Carol reported that Woodcrest management is not in favor of door-to-door delivery of the Sr. Ctr. Newsletter. It may be put in the community rooms. We talked about trying to have more cooperation and communication between Woodcrest and the Senior Center.

5. **Old Business:** None.

6. **New Business:** None.

Regrets were expressed that Tim will be leaving the committee as of the end of this year and talked about having a man as his replacement.

Tim moved and Tina seconded the motion that we adjourn at 2:36 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.

