

Town of Somers
Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors
March 12, 2019

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

Absent: Joan Sizer

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

2. Pat moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that the 01/08/19 minutes be approved as written.

3: Audience: Florence Hurley. Dory moved and Carol seconded the motion that the meeting be open to audience participation.

4. Transportation: The new 2019 bus has arrived, giving us with the 2016 bus, 2 buses. The 2014 bus was sold for \$1700. The new town budget cut \$15,000 from the amount requested for bus drivers. We have one driver at 24 hours per week, one driver at 16 hours per week and a third flex driver based on need. The budget cut leaves little for the flex driver so after March and April there will probably be no more trips with a town bus. A driver training program was held on Feb. 22.

5. Community Outreach/Publicity: There was only one response to the survey link in the Somers Connection magazine asking about interest in future community education events. Committee members expressed a concern that residents don't recognize the magazine as Somers information because the word "Somers" is so small. Ailene suggested that we use local newspapers like the Thursday Courant Community section and the Reminder printed in East Longmeadow to advertise events as several other Senior Centers do. Deanna asked for committee help with this. Consensus was that we should speak with Joan, who is the designated Publicity person for the committee, if she is able to do this. Phyllis and Ailene offered to help with this if needed.

6. Senior Center programming: Ailene suggested that, because a recent speaking event at Healthy Breakfast brought in more participants, we should have more speakers at Healthy Breakfast to encourage more participation. Deanna and Flo said that because programs on health-related topics have not had good attendance in the past we could try combining these with Healthy Breakfast. We decided to try this one time a month at 8:45 a.m. and assess after a couple of months. Parkway Pavilion, which has been providing a meal at the Healthy Breakfast time will be asked to come at another time.

7. Housing: Phyllis has spoken with appropriate people at Town Hall and a local builder about the need for affordable housing in Somers. They suggested that individuals and/or groups should write letters to the Zoning Enforcement Officer about this and these would be recorded. They also suggested attending the monthly Zoning Commission meetings.

8. Recognition of Deceased: Deanna asked the committee to think of an appropriate way to honor deceased friends of the Senior Center. Some suggestions were a memory board in a dedicated area of the Senior Center; a once a year memorial service.

9. Committee Updates: Senior Club: 205 members. A Fourth of July party is being planned.

MOW: Ailene asked if clients are still receiving refrigerator magnets or if we need more. Deanna will check on this.

Phyllis moved and Carol seconded the motion that our meeting be adjourned at 2:51 p.m.

Next meeting April 9.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.