

Town of Somers
Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors
February 11, 2020

Present: Dori Bynack, Chris Boucher, Jillian Connors, Steve Getman, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Allison Maynard, Carol Sarrantonio, Joan Sizer, Tina Toohey,

Absent: Pat Bachetti

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:27 p.m. by chairman Allison Maynard.

II. **Minutes of January 14 meeting:** Amendments: First sentence of Old Business should read: Recreation and Leisure Dep't plans to move forward on door-to-door Dial-a-Ride service.

Spelling change – Alison to Allison.

Addition of Pat Bachetti's name as vice chairman of Advisory Committee.

Moved by Tina and seconded by Dory that the minutes be approved as amended. Motion carried.

III: **Audience:** Christina Hurdle-Cenac, social services coordinator.

IV: **Correspondence:** none

V: **Old Business:** Ellington Regional Housing Rehabilitation program has limited money available for low and moderate income Somers residents.

Plans for door-to-door Dial-a-Ride service are still in vetting process.

VI: **New Business:**

A. **MOW:** A discussion of the nutritional quality of the MOW meals and the present arrangements for providing the meals. Discussed the availability of CRT meals.

B. **Updates from Senior Center Supervisor:**

Outreach: We talked about creative ways to reach out to more seniors. Starting in May there will be an 8 page monthly newsletter. The Senior Club will mail one more newsletter, then Senior Club news will be in the Senior Center newsletter. Some other outreach suggestions were: mailing occasional postcards, putting Senior info in with tax bills, sending a weekly email, publishing info in the quarterly Connection magazine, more info on Facebook and the town website. Jillian has been reaching out to Woodcrest. Chris is working on having visits from Selectmen and other town staff.

Programs being planned: A monthly veteran's coffee house led by David McCaffrey, Town of Somers Veteran Representative; fitness activities; local trips with our second bus; out-to-lunch bunch; Healthy Brain Series – a 5 week seminar; tours; movies; Smarty Pants Trivia.

C. **Hartford Foundation Community Fund:** The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has made available \$100,000 to each of 29 CT towns including Somers. \$50,000 is available for immediate use and \$50,000 will be an endowment from which the interest can be used. Town people are encouraged to donate to this. A 5 person Selection Committee has been formed which will choose an Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee will decide how the money is to be spent with the approval of the Hartford Foundation.

VII. **Committee Updates:**

Senior Club: 225 members at present. Valentine party planned for Feb. 12 with dinner and entertainment.

Tina moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that our meeting be adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Next meeting March 10, 2020

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.