

Town of Somers
Meeting of Advisory Committee for Seniors
March 10, 2020

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

Absent: Pat Bachetti

I. The meeting was called to order at 1:26 p.m. by chairman Allison Maynard.

II. Minutes of 2/11/20 meeting: Joan moved and Phyllis seconded the motion that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.

III. Audience: none

IV: Correspondence: none

V: Old Business: Phyllis had questions about the role of the Advisory Committee. Allison said she sees it as bringing the pulse of the senior community to the staff. Allison will reach out to other Senior Centers to see copies of their by-laws re the role of the Advisory Committee.

There was a discussion about the new policy of including Senior Club news in the Senior Center newsletter since this committee had previously voted to have the Senior Club publish their own newsletter because it had been difficult for Senior Center staff to answer questions re Senior Club. Consensus was that if it is not a problem now for Senior Center staff that it would be OK but perhaps, the Senior Club could give a donation to help defray the cost of publishing the newsletter. Dori will bring the newsletter issue to the next Senior Club board meeting.

Hartford Foundation Community Fund: The advisory committee of 9 members + 2 alternates has been formed.

VI: New Business:

A. Updates from Senior Center Supervisor: Jillian reported that there have been 15 new registrations and several programs have had increased participation.

Jillian read the existing Dial-a-Ride policies and procedures and added new information about introducing door-to-door service on a case by case basis. Jillian will bring a draft of the proposed new policy to our next meeting and then it will have to go to the Board of Selectmen, the town attorney and the town insurance. Jillian recommended that Dial-a-Ride applications be updated annually.

B. Chris's Departure: Chris Boucher announced his resignation, his last day to be March 27. Committee members expressed regret at his departure and wished him all good luck with his new business.

C. There was a short discussion about preparedness in Somers for the COVID-19 virus.

VII. Representative Updates:

Senior Club: 225 members at present.

MOW: Steve and Ailene met with Allison and Christina about approaching Hometown Kitchen with some suggestions. Allison and Pat Bachetti will meet with Hometown Kitchen owners.

Woodcrest: Carol reported that Woodcrest residents are receiving the Senior Center newsletter. Jillian and Allison have met with Woodcrest staff.

VIII: Adjournment: Joan moved and Carol seconded the motion that our meeting be adjourned at 2:45 p.m. Next meeting April 14, 2020

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.