

**Town of Somers
Advisory Committee for Seniors
December 8, 2020
Zoom**

Present: Pat Bachetti, Jillian Connors , Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Allison Maynard, Carol Sarrantonio, Joan Sizer

Absent: Steve Getman, Tina Toohey

II. Call to order at 1:33 pm by chairperson Allison Maynard.

II. Approval of 11/10/20 Minutes: Pat moved and Carol seconded the motion that the minutes of the 11/10/20 meeting be approved as written.

III. Audience: Christina Hurdle-Cenac (Social Services)

IV. Correspondence: None

V. Old Business: There was a question about a new committee member, a representative from the Senior Club, to take the place of Dory Bynack. Jillian will reach out to the chairman of the Senior Club. The name will then be given by Allison to the Selectmen.

Ailene asked the status of the grant money from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The committee has been meeting monthly and, after the holidays, will send out a town wide mailer for a community needs assessment. When the feed back from this is assessed, the committee will initiate the grant making process.

VI. New Business:

A. Social Services Update:

MOW: Allison and Christina met again with the owner of the Hometown Kitchen Restaurant. The restaurant is unable to provide special dietary requirements so, on Feb. 1, we will begin getting meals from CRT. They require a minimum of 15 clients. Allison thinks we can meet this.

Covid Testing: Weekly Covid testing has begun each Wed., 9:00 a.m. to noon, at the DPW facility. This will continue for the foreseeable future. Results of testing take 3 to 5 days. There will be no cost to clients without insurance. Christina said that Medicare will pay for one test without an MD order. Subsequent tests would need a MD order.

Holiday Programs: Social Services and Senior Center are working together on a program to make and deliver gift baskets to homebound residents. The Girl Scouts have written holiday letters to be included. At present there are 33 possible recipients.

Many toys and gift cards have been received for the "Toy Shop" holiday program. On Dec. 14, 15, 16 families will be able to come to Social Services by appointment only to shop for toys. After the holidays, unused toys and gifts will be given to hospitals and other agencies.

B. Senior Center Update:

Dial-a-Ride continues to be able to meet needs. Priority is for employment and medical transport. They are trying to have just one rider at a time and continue with covid precautions.

The 2016 bus cost has been paid off. Since the grant is no longer in effect, we may be able to use the bus for out-of-town trips (when covid restrictions are over).

There will be a monthly newsletter mailed to all seniors.

There has been a better response for virtual programs.

Homehelpers will continue with a monthly virtual senior support group and will provide a monthly grab-and-go lunch.

In January the Senior Club will do a drive through lunch on the third Wednesday of the month.

There will be a movie matinee.

Joan asked if the chair aerobics video is available for home use at times other than scheduled. Jillian will provide a DVD for this.

Senior Voices, the volunteer social call program, will soon be ready to be implemented. Twelve people have volunteered to call.

Jillian would like to start a walking program – wearing a mask, walk on sidewalk to Battle Street cemetery.

Pat said that a few people had asked her about taking baked goods to homebound residents. Allison said the town could not be involved with this for liability reasons. Cards and calls are better.

VII. Committee Updates: Outreach: Pat continues to send greeting cards to MOW clients. She thanked Christina for her help.

We will continue to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 pm.

Allison will send the meeting schedule for 2021. She will reach out to SteveGetman.

VIII. Adjournment: 2:22 p.m.

Next meeting Jan.12, 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Ailene Henry secretary

Minutes not official until approved at subsequent meeting.