

## SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Thursday, February 19, 2015

**Present:** Kathi Liberman, Kathy Bagley, Erica Texeira, Tony Martino, Christine Taylor, Lisa Galipo, Adele Antoniou, Barbara Higbee, Henry Higbee, Agnes Bolasevich, Henry Hornat

The meeting was called to order at 3:05pm.

**Minutes:** Minutes from the January 15, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously: motion by Barbara Higbee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Henry Hornat.

### **Old Business:**

- **Committee Membership:** Kathi Liberman distributed a new Advisory Committee membership list. It was noted that Henry Hornat is now a regular member and Henry Higbee an alternate. The two were welcomed by the Committee. There remains one alternate slot vacant. Kathi reminded the group that all members with the exception of Barbara Higbee, Chris Taylor & Chris Skowronek, should correspond with Delores Sessano in the Town Clerk's office to express their willingness to extend their terms through 2016. This needs to be done by June, 2015.
- **Financial Update:** Lisa Galipo reported there is a balance of \$1,200 in our account.

### **New Business:**

- The Sub Committee planning the spring educational event will meet after today's SCAC meeting. The date for the event is Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> and the topic is tentatively "Looking & Living Like a Millionaire for Less." The banquet room has been booked for the event from 1-4pm.
- A date for the Senior Volunteer Recognition event has been chosen. It will be held on Tuesday, June 9. The banquet room has been booked for the event from 1-4pm. Committee members suggested possible entertainment for the event including a performing group from the high school, a local dance school troupe or the Rhythmairs. Lisa will look into these possibilities.

### **Committee Reports:**

- **Council Liaison:** Tony Martino reported that the Town Council is involved in the budget process. The capital improvement committee budget was recently finalized. The board of education budget is finalized and the superintendent will be presenting it to the Council soon. There will be a public session to hear about the budget on 3/15. And Council members will soon be meeting with department heads. Tony noted that the Town's snow budget is in the red by approximately \$150,000.
- Tony also reported getting calls from residents who need help with shoveling. One resident suggested that the churches in town coordinate a list of young people who would be willing to shovel for seniors. Since Chris Skowronek was not present at this meeting, Kathi Liberman offered to communicate this suggestion to him.

- Wethersfield Housing Authority: Kathi Liberman reported:
  - The Authority continues to work with Town Social Services on programs include energy assistance. Food share is also ongoing.
  - The Authority is hoping to renovate family units. Funding is pending.
  
- Clergy: No report. Pastor Chris Skowronek was absent.
  
- Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported:
  - Energy assistance program is ongoing
  - Rent rebate begins April 1.
  - The United Methodist Army program will serve Wethersfield the week of 7/12. S&YS will take applications from seniors and the disabled who need home repairs or yard work completed.
  - The February training for friendly visitors and shoppers is being postponed until spring.
  - Chris has been in contact with Sherry Grave from the UConn expanded food and nutrition program who is anxious to be part of the SCAC spring event.
  - Chris met with a representative from LifeLine regarding the many types of medical alert systems available and has brochures about these services.
  - The AARP Tax Assistance program is underway. Lisa reported that the Newington SC's tax appointment schedule is full and they will be sending requests for tax help to Wethersfield.
  
- Senior Center Activities: Lisa Galipo reported:
  - There will be a series of financial "Lunch & Learns" available in the coming months that will cover topics including "Estate Planning" provided by Czepiega, Daly & Pope, "Retirement Planning" by USA Financial, "Reverse Mortgages" by a HUD-approved non-profit counseling agency, and "Leaving a Legacy" by First Investors group.
  - Several day trips are proving popular during sign ups including a concert by Neil Sedaka at Mohegan Sun and a trip to the 9-11 Memorial in NYC.
  - She noted exercise classes remain popular especially Chair Yoga which now has over 82 participants.
  - Lisa reported that Atty Marilyn Denny from Legal Aid did a Lunch & Learn presentation today and reported that the Governor's budget threatens to close the State-funded portion of the CT Homecare Program for Elders. Kathi Liberman offered to put together a letter opposing these cuts on behalf of the Committee which will be sent to our local representatives. Lisa will attempt to find out how many Wethersfield residents receive services through this program.
  
- Wethersfield Seniors Club: Agnes Bolasevich:
  - The annual Christmas Luncheon was a great success with their biggest attendance ever. Tickets for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day banquet are also selling well.
  - There have been problems with the bingo machine. Mary T. has put in a work order for the electrician to look at the machine.

A motion to adjourn was made by Barbara Higbee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lisa Galipo. The meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Galipo