

SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes

Thursday, March 19, 2015

Present: Adele Antoniou, Kathy Bagley, Agnes Bolasevich, Lisa Galipo, Patricia Garach, Barbara Higbee, Henry Higbee, Henry Hornat, Kathi Liberman, Tony Martino, Joe Mehan, Claire Mehan, Chris Skowronek, Rachael Sunny, Christine Taylor, Erica Texeira,

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

Minutes: Minutes from the February 19, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously: motion by Barbara Higbee, 2nd by Christine Taylor.

Old Business:

- **Financial Update:** Lisa Galipo reported there is a balance of \$1,000 left in our account. The remaining ads in the Rare Reminder will cost \$400. One of the speakers for our upcoming Educational Conference in May will cost \$100. A motion was made by Barbara Higbee, seconded by Christine Taylor to donate \$100 towards the cost of refreshments for the annual Volunteer Recognition program, bringing our projected balance down to \$200.
- **Committee Membership:** Kathi Liberman noted that Henry Hornat has officially been recognized as a member of the SCAC.

New Business:

- **Special Interest:** Patricia (Trish) Garach, a resident of First Church Village, opened a discussion of the need for low cost entertainment/travel trips for seniors in Wethersfield. While the community center does sponsor a variety of trips, seniors living on a fixed budget cannot afford most of the trips. Surrounding towns provide transportation at a low cost (\$5 - \$10/per person), maybe 2 or 3 times a year, to events within the state. Wethersfield does not presently offer a similar activity. She asked that this option be investigated.

Committee Reports:

- **Council Liaison** Tony Martino reported:
 - the town's budget process is underway.
 - because of this year's harsh winter the schedule for road repair work will be have to be reexamined.
- **Wethersfield Housing Authority:** Kathi Liberman reported
 - grants have been applied for to make improvements to some of the housing units.
 - the Food Share program in continuing, as there is a growing need in our community.
- **Clergy:** Pastor Chris Skowronek reported:
 - a weekend of Service to the Community (Saturday) and Worship at Cove Park (Sunday) is being planned for Labor Day weekend. Four different churches in Wethersfield will take part.

- Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Chris Taylor reported
 - CRT Energy Assistance applications are being accepted until May 1. Call Social & Youth Services at 860-721-2977 for more information about the documents required to apply and for an appointment.
 - The Tax Relief Program for Homeowners continues through May 15. Call the Assessor's Office with questions or to apply, 860-721-2810.
 - Renters' Rebate Program continues from April 1 to October 1.

- Wethersfield Seniors Club: Agnes Bolasevich reported:
 - 83 people attended the Corned Beef Dinner for the BINGO group held in March.

- Social Services/Senior Center: Lisa Galipo reported:
 - the annual Volunteer Recognition program is scheduled for June 9
 - several new activities have been added to the monthly newsletter. An information session is planned for Friday, April 10 at 10am to discuss a remarkable opportunity for you to learn basic Italian and use your new skills on a trip to Italy. To help cut down on expenses, 30 host families have been agreed to house travelers during their trip to Tuscany.
 - Christine Cooney is a spectacular entertainer who will be performing Broadway tunes (and more) on Monday, April 6 at 1:00pm at the community center. Admission is \$2 for Senior Center members and \$4 for non-members.
 - on Tuesday, April 14 at 12 noon, as part of the Lunch & Learn series, Attorney Lara Bomzer from the law firm Czepiga, Daly & Pope, will talk about "Estate Planning: Don't Make These Mistakes". Call Lisa at 860-721-2979 at least one day in advance to reserve your free lunch.
 - On Tuesday, April 30 at 11:30 am, as part of the Lunch & Learn series, Scott Sullivan of Money Management International will speak about Reverse Mortgages. Call Lisa at 860-721-2979 at least one day in advance to reserve your free lunch.

- SCAC Educational Conference Committee: Kathi Liberman reported:
 - the date is May 21, from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. The theme is "Living on a Fixed Income: Challenges & Solutions".
 - Speakers include Missie Morris (aka "The Crazy Coupon Chick", as seen on Better Connecticut), Lindsey Gomes ("Healthy Shopping" from Shop Rite), Sharon Gray ("Scrumptious Meals", a UConn Cooperative Extension Educator) and a representative from Savers, who will discuss "Fashion Shopping".
 - Information booths will also be set up.

The next meeting is April 16, 2015 at 3:00 pm, immediately followed by a meeting of the Planning Committee for the annual Education Seminar.

A motion to adjourn was made by Claire Mehan, 2nd by Barbara Higbee. The meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Mehan, member At-Large