

SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, September 21, 2006

Present: Jane Helen Ross, Gerry Seklecki, Grace Piencikowski, Carol Tedone, Claire Mehan, Donna Mattison, Kathy Bagley, Nancy Stilwell, Christine Taylor, Estelle Knurek, Kyle Mosley, Maribeth Dwane, Bertha Keenan.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Vice-Chair Jane Helen Ross.

Public Comments:

Representatives from Grandbury Homes presented information on the 55+ senior living complex on Ridge Road. This is the first of its kind in Wethersfield. The Committee was invited to tour the facility.

Minutes:

[The notes from the May 17, 2006 meeting](#) were reviewed. (A quorum was not available, thus formal minutes were not taken).

Old Business:

The list of Senior Advisor Committee members was reviewed. A complete listing is on the Town's website. A Chairperson and Secretary are needed. All members were asked to consider volunteering for one of these positions. Further discussion was tabled until the October meeting.

New Business:

The budget for fiscal year 2006 - 2007 is \$2000.00. A motion was made by Kathi Liberman and second by Estelle Knurek to approve \$1520.00 for advertising in the Rare Reminder. The remainder of the money will be allocated as needed. The vote was unanimous.

Reports:

Wethersfield Housing Authority: Kathi Liberman reports that all administrative issues and tenant related issues are being dealt with.

AARP: Gerry Sedlechi reports that they have approximately 200 members. A fall foliage trip is scheduled for October 12. Reservations can be made by calling 529-9621. Estelle Knurek reported that a needs assessment survey was conducted. A fundraising fair is being scheduled.

Elderly Services Coordinator/Municipal Agent: Christine Taylor reported on the projects and accomplishments annual report. The complete report is on file in the Town Clerk's office. Chris reviewed the changes in Medicare D, which begins open enrollment in November. She advised us that the Commission on Aging is now located on the 5th floor in the Capital Building. A long-term needs assessment, funded through UCONN will be distributed, by random sampling, in January 2007. Chris distributed pamphlets from the Health District, regarding living with persons with Alzheimer's or related dementia. Chris stated that dates for applying for CRT Energy Assistance have been determined. The guidelines for CHAP are still to be determined. Inter-Community Mental Health will conduct a free "Depression Screening Day" on October 12, 2006. This will be held at the Pitkin Community Center from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and at the Newington Senior Center from 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

People With Disabilities: Christine Taylor distributed the resource booklet of "Services for People with Disabilities". It is also available on the Town's website.

Wethersfield Senior Club: President Carol Tedone reported that the Senior Club has donated to 'Dollars for Scholars", the heart fund and the Town's camp. On October 19, they will be sponsoring a fundraising craft fair.

Social Services/Senior Center: Donna Mattison thanked AARP for their scholarship money for Senior Net. She also thanked the Wethersfield Healthcare Center for sponsoring an ice cream social on August 2. Donna identified that the September programs are actively underway. A ballroom dance instructor is still needed. Since September 5, 2006 the Senior Center has grown by 23 new members. There are approximately 500 members. CHOICES will be conducted their volunteer training program at the Pitkin Center. Donna distributed the October newsletter.

Comments:

Nancy Stilwell attended a meeting on the topics of Roberts Rules of Order and the Freedom of Information Act. She shared this information as it pertains to the Senior Advisory Committee meetings: A formal meeting cannot be held if there is no quorum. Only Committee members are allowed to speak at meetings. If a member is absent, a deemed alternate may speak on his/her behalf and it must be noted in the minutes. The meeting agenda and meeting minutes are to be posted within 7 days and if a vote is taken, the vote must be posted within 2 days of the meeting. Invited guest speakers must be included on the agenda. The public is welcome to attend meetings, but need not introduce themselves. It is at the discretion of the Committee to allow any public comments. If any conflict of interest or potential thereof occurs, the person involved should leave the room for the duration of the discussion. The meeting location cannot be changed unless this change is posted 24 hours in advance. If a sub-committee is formed, they are subject to the same rules and regulations. Recording and/or videotaping of meetings are allowed. If the rules are not adhered to, we are at risk of violating the Freedom of Information Act requirements.

Nancy Stilwell and Christine Taylor are working in partnership with Middletown, on a Volunteer Driver Program. Ten people will initially be trained. Primary focus will be for people who cannot use Dial A Ride on any given day (i.e. outpatient surgery transportation, weekend church attendance). The person being driven must be able to enter and exit a vehicle on their own. The volunteer driver's insurance will be primary with the Town's insurance being secondary.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Bertha Keenan and second by Claire Mehan to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathi Liberman