

**TOWN OF SOMERS
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY
MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2012 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chairman Amy Saada at 1:35 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Bachetti, Elaine Bemont, James Burgess, Dorothy Bynack, Ron Collyer, Phylliss Gwilliam, Ailene Henry and Amy Saada

MEMBERS ABSENT: Francis Boudreau

AUDIENCE: Linda Coleman, Frances little, David Gwilliam, Florence Hurley and Joan Sizer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes of March 13, 2012 with a motion by Phylliss Gwilliam and a second by Ailene Henry.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman's Report - *Amy reported that volunteers are a necessary part for carrying out various programs. More volunteers are needed. *Girl Scout project destined to replace the flooring in the senior center is still on. Possibility exists of repainting interior also.

Meals on Wheels - Linda Coleman reported that she can always use more drivers to help serve the twenty or so clients who participate in this program. Questions arose as to the possibility of funding drivers due to the high cost of gas. Linda was not sure of how much money was available in this program or where this program stood financially. Ailene Henry volunteered to check with Lisa Pellegrini to see exactly where it stands. Linda also stated that new bags were ordered for the food delivery. It turned out that the bags were vinyl on the outside but not on the inside and did not serve the purpose very well. Bags will be returned.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti is back from Florida and needs to check in with Blair Manor to see how many clients she has to deal with. She is open to receiving the names of any Somers resident at Blair Manor.

Senior Club – Jim Burgess presented board members with a copy of the new slate of officers for the senior club. A discussion arose as to how senior club news should be presented to its members. A motion was made by Dorothy Bynack stating the Senior Club should prepare its own newsletter/information sheet just like what is being done by Woodcrest, the scouts or other organizations in town. Motion was seconded by Ron Collyer. Vote was unanimous.

VOLUNTEERS:

Trip Planner – David Gwilliam has volunteered to plan some day trips for the seniors. He has talked with people from King Ward Tours regarding the number of people required to have a bus take seniors various places. It was stated that a minimum of 20 people would be required. Somers seniors could also team up with the Stafford Citizens Club or people from Sun Valley to add to their count. If less than that, our own senior bus would have to be used. If seniors wanted to take a trip with King Ward, they could always get the bus at Century Plaza in Springfield. If anyone has a suggestion for an upcoming trip, speak to David Gwilliam with your ideas. Among trips being proposed are the following:

- WFSB Channel 3 to see Scot Hany's show
- Yankee Candle
- Bus to Casino followed by game
- Rockets Baseball game
- Elizabeth Park
- Holyoke Mall
- Worthington Pond

It is also hoped to have someone come in to speak to the seniors about other trips available.

Healthy Breakfast Walk – Destination Walk – It is hoped to be able to plan short trips for a destination walk in conjunction with the healthy breakfast on the first and third Thursdays of the month. More info on this at a later date.

Senior Discount Card – Free discount cards are available at the senior center for the seniors offering discounts at various businesses in Somers and nearby towns. It is hoped to have more businesses added to the current list in the near future.

Silver Classic Movies – These are held every Monday in Enfield for a cost of \$3.00. Price includes movie, popcorn and a soda. Can't beat the price!

Library – Free movies are held twice a month at our local Somers Library. Check their website for dates and movie listing.

OLD BUSINESS:

Monthly Newsletter – Senior Center newsletter will now be going out on a monthly basis. All information has to be received by the 15th of the month. This will enable a better flow of information to all the seniors in town. So far, response has been good.

Time Change – New time of 1:30 seems to work out okay for board members. We shall continue to hold our meetings at this time.

NEW BUSINESS:

Pool Table – Ron Collyer would very much like to see a pool table at the senior center. This would attract more men to the building. Amy will try to find a way to make this happen.

COMMENTS:

Pat Bachetti commented on the operation of Senior Services here at the senior center. Feeling is that it lacks privacy both on the recipient level as well as the town level. Amy stated that appointments are now required for those coming in and it is usually done on Tuesday and Thursday when there are less people using the building.

Question arose as to where we stand with the addition to the building, etc. It was requested that Lisa Pellegrini address the board regarding this situation.

Next Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 1:30 P.M.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 2:50 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING