

**TOWN OF SOMERS
THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE ELDERLY
MINUTES OF AUGUST 14, 2012 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chairman Amy Saada at 1:38 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Elaine Bemont, Jim Burgess, Dorothy Bynack, Ron Collyer, Phyliss Gwilliam, Ailene Henry and Amy Saada

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pat Bachetti and Fran Boudreau

AUDIENCE: David Gwilliam

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes of June 12, 2012 with a motion by Dory Bynack and a second by Ailene Henry.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Chairman's Report - Amy reported the following:

- Zumba Gold classes for baby boomers and above will be starting on September 25th at Kibbe Fuller school. Class will run for four weeks and will cost \$25 per person. Men and women are both welcome for this exercise program.
- Box Tops are being collected for the Somers P.T.A. A container has been placed on the counter near the kitchen for this purpose.
- Back-to-School program is now in effect. School supplies for all ages are being collected. Town employees recently donated \$150 to this program from their collection to wear jeans on Friday collection. Perhaps a Donation Jar can be set up to receive some cash to help purchase needed supplies.
- Amy and Linda Coleman have been attending Certified CHOICES training. They have several more training sessions coming up.
- Flooring replacement has reached a snag. The girls scout involved could only complete the project if she was able to have carpeting installed. Carpeting is currently out of the question. Lisa Pellegrini is going to contact the girl scout to see if she is still interested in this program. If not, perhaps a way could be found to pay the cost of putting tile on the floor for ease in maintenance.
- A pool table has been donated to the senior center and will eventually be placed in the sun room. It is an 8' table complete with Oriental rug, cue racks and plywood to make the table able to be used for ping pong. Ron Collyer is spearheading this project.
- Trips currently being planned include a trip to the Chowder Pot on 8/23 – which is now full – and trip to Shady Glen and Munson Chocolates on 9/27.

Meals on Wheels - Linda Coleman advised that clientele has been growing due to the number of new people moving into Woodcrest. Volunteers are always needed. There are currently two routes for drivers with the possibility of a third in the future.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti was not present .

Senior Club – Jim Burgess asked if the updated Resource Guide was available and was advised that copies had to be printed. He also wondered if the Town Charter for this commission needed to be updated. Jim said the Club gave two \$1,000 scholarships to two students who will be advancing their education. He also asked if the Senior Center was available to be rented out at night for use by other organizations. He had a gentleman from the Land Trust that was interested in using the building on September 23 for an annual meeting of this organization. Jim was advised to contact Ann Logan at the town hall who could set him up for a meeting in one of the other town-owned building.

Woodcrest – Amy did some investigation, per our request, on the rent situation at Woodcrest. This facility is not subsidized and rents are based on a min/max income level. Income for a single person runs from \$22,000 to \$42,120 with rents running about \$683 for the 50 % rate and \$788 for the 60% rate. It is hoped to still have someone come in and talk to this group about the Woodcrest situation.

Trips – Dave Gwilliam announced that the bus trips to Mohegan Sun have been very successful. However, most of the attendees are not Somers residents but from surrounding towns. He has planned another trip to the casino on October 12. Upcoming trips will be announced in the newsletter. He and Phyliss are looking into joining with the Ellington Senior Center on upcoming trips to help get more of our local seniors involved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Flooring – New flooring is on hold for the time being with an attempt to work out some snags in plans.

Senior Resource Guide – Ailene Henry reported that updates have been completed on this resource guide. Amy and staff will make copies which will be available to those wanting a copy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Trust Speaker – Ailene Henry thought it would be a good idea to have someone speak to this commission regarding how Land Trust works in this town. They could advise about trails available for walking, etc.

Connecticut Energy Assistance Program – Applications for this program will be taken beginning on September 1 for those 65 years of age and older. Applications will be taken for other people beginning October 1. Benefits are based on income. Fran Little and David Pinney will handle the residents of Woodcrest because of the volume of people now living there.

AARP Class – Bev Morin will be holding a class at the senior center on Saturday, August 18 from 8:30 until 12:30. Fee will be \$5.00 for certain professionals and \$12.00 for others.

Art Group – Several artists in this group have had their paintings selected to be in an art show to be held in Southbury on 9/22 and 9/23. Painters in this show are 70 years of age and older.

COMMENTS:

Board members have serious concerns about the preparation of a list of people in town with special needs to help in case of an emergency. We must at least know who these people are – those depending on oxygen, cannot get out of their homes on their own, etc. We hope Amy will continue in her efforts to get acceptance for this program.

Also needed is a list of volunteer drivers to take people to the doctors or for cataract surgery, etc. We all realize there is a liability issue and hope there is some way to get around the problem.

Amy was asked to send a notice too all board members when she sends the agenda to Ann Logan. This would serve as a reminder for the upcoming meeting.

Question arose as to who was responsible for putting the Board meeting notice in the Journal Inquirer. Time and place of meeting was incorrect.

Next meeting of the Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2012 at 1:30.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 3:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING