

**TOWN OF SOMERS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR SENIORS
MINUTES OF JANUARY 12, 2016 MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order by Chairman Deanna Schuetz at 1:32 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pat Bachetti, Elaine Bemont, Dory Bynack, Phyllis Gwilliam, Ailene Henry, Deanna Schuetz, Joan Sizer and Tim Welch.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Eileen Fedorowich

AUDIENCE: Patricia Bouchard, Mary Ann Kingsbury and Tina Toohey – Motion made by Tim Welch with a second by Pat Bachetti allowing audience members to speak if they wished to.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Approval of minutes from meeting of December 8, 2015 with motion by Tim Welch and second by Dori Bynack approved with the following corrections:

- Under the **Patio** section of Committee Reports, a statement should be corrected to read that the patio was constructed due to a drainage problem and is on schedule.
- Under **Woodcrest** – Statement regarding that there are a lot of renters in the town of Somers, including 140 apartments at Woodcrest, should be removed from the minutes.
- Also under **Woodcrest**, statement should be added regarding the fact that there appears to be some disconnect between Woodcrest and the Senior Center. Deanna and Flo met with Fran Little on May 14, 2015 in an attempt to reach out to Woodcrest residents. In addition, the March, 2015 newsletter specifically called for Woodcrest residents to give Deanna their input but none was received.

Chairman's Report – Deanna reported the following:

- Deanna said our board meeting is a public meeting and open to any resident. Audience participation is allowed with a motion and approval of the board.
- Deanna thanked board members for their reappointments by the town and the good job being done. The secretary of the board was thanked for her hard work also.
- Members were thanked for their participation in the coffee talk session held on January 11. Interesting items were discussed. It was decided that these coffee talk sessions should be held on a quarterly basis with topics of discussion limited to 3 or 4 before opening the session to other questions from the floor.
- Pat Boudreau suggested that a pamphlet be prepared specifically explaining the rules for use of the town bus. Many people did not know that a week's notice should be given if use of the bus is necessary. It appears that information given to

Fran Little, Resident Coordinator at Woodcrest, is not always given to the residents.

Meals on Wheels – Ailene Henry, Tim Welch and Pat Bachetti brought a problem to the attention of the board that has happened when there is no contact person at the senior center (such as Saturday or holidays). A list should be prepared showing contact people for their clients in case of an emergency. There are times when no one answers the door or cannot be reached via telephone, etc. This is a serious safety issue and will be addressed.. Drivers try to solve their problems between themselves as much as possible. It is hoped to have the dietician from Johnson Memorial meet with Kathy at the Playhouse Plaza to go over specific diets for some of the clients.

Senior Support – Pat Bachetti reported she is currently in contact with twelve people via cards, etc. and things are going well. She prepared Christmas treats for her people. Now that she is going to Florida for a couple of months, she will continue to keep in touch with her people.

Senior Club – Dory reported that there are 192 paid members and things are going well. Menu has been prepared for February. It is hoped to have the club president, Dan Fraro, speak to the people at one of the lunches regarding rumors that have been going around and to discuss the relationship between the club and the senior center. Perhaps this would help put some of the rumors to rest.

Publicity – Joan Sizer was thanked for a beautiful picture/article of the knitting group that recently appeared in the local papers. Joan just saw an item in the paper regarding the proper way to submit articles to be put in the Community Courant. This should be done via the website, not email.

Woodcrest – Deanna advised the board of some of the communication problems between her and Fran Little, Resident Coordinator at Woodcrest. She recently received an email giving her a headcount of how many people would be attending the coffee talk and our board meeting. No names were given – just numbers. The coffee talk is open to everyone and any topic. Sign-up sheets, however, are required for all events to get an estimate of how many people will be attending. The Advisory Board meeting is open to everyone also, as it is a public town meeting. If someone should want to be put on the agenda, a topic must be given and not just a person's name. There are also times when the senior bus has been requested for Woodcrest residents and no one shows up. Deanna reported that Woodcrest is a private entity which has its own Housing Authority. Being a private entity, board members questioned if Woodcrest should have their own vehicle for transportation between their different buildings, etc.

OLD BUSINESS:

Deanna advised board members to be cautious when using email between members. If sent to six or more members, it constitutes a meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: None brought up today

COMMENTS:

Pat Boudreau said it is time for our seniors to show up and support the programs being offered. Read your newsletter, come to the senior center and take an active role in the goings on.

Next meeting of the Advisory Board will be on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 1:30.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 3:05 by motion of Joan Sizer with a second by Pat Bachetti.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. Bemont, Secretary

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING