

COMMISSION ON AGING

MINUTES

March 5, 2012

Present: Commission members Nina Daniel, Helen de Keijzer, Nancy Hammerslough, and Bruce Lorentzen, Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pamela Wilson, Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman, Dial-a-Ride Driver Gordon Green, SWCAA liaison Meta Schroeter, and Roberta Morelli, Virginia Doherty, and Mary Doyle.

Helen convened the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

Minutes from the 2/6/12 meeting were approved as written by consensus.

SWCAA: Meta gave the SWCAA report from the 2/8 meeting held in Bridgeport and distributed written copies as well. She reported to us about a new virus, called NURO, which is going around and lasts 48 hours. Pat Knebel discussed grants programs and site visits. Gretchen James, head of the Living Well program, announced two leader training programs and will offer one in Spanish. Various community reports were summarized.

Dial-A-Ride – Gordon gave his report, he is very busy, driving more miles.

Roberta noted that the Town of Oxford, CT has acquired a fourth bus through grants, which can be reapplied for when the van is 5 years old. She suggested a larger bus for the Senior Center. Charlene noted that the Commission can apply for a grant but we don't have 2 drivers to drive 2 vans. We'd have to get more money for driving time if we had another van. It was noted that our van is 4 years old and getting closer to needing replacement. Bruce will talk to Rick Darling to find out what the town is saving for future van purchase in the capital budget.

Discussion on Parks and Rec doing trips for adults: Meta mentioned that Wilton's Parks and Rec offers all of their adult trips through that department. Pam is working on trips and different bus scenarios. Wendy and Pam plan to meet with Parks and Rec next week.

Social Services – Charlene reported that aging in place for seniors represents a major increase in her work load. She is pushing through fuel issues as winter winds down. She is also shoring up efforts on behalf of Youth Services because of loss of staff in that area. She feels while Weston might benefit from expanding driving hours, the budget doesn't allow for it at this point. Grant money might be found but it would be important to explore the level of need.

Weston Senior Activities Report – Wendy said that Christina Hillman, who has previously worked at the Center, will work during the summer months if it is approved in her budget. We discussed protocols for winter weather delays and closures. The

consensus of the commission is to maintain policy that if schools are closed, Center is closed, and if schools have a weather delay, the Center is closed all day. If there is an early dismissal due to weather, Center can be open in the morning but closed early. We will also stay with the current schedule of closing the Center during school breaks, with the exception of the summer months when the Center will remain open. The only exception will be the week of 4th of July when Wendy is on vacation and part time help (Christina) will start the following week.

Friends of the Weston Senior Activities Center report: Nina gave update on Friends. Key Clubbers will be contacted if we are eventually able to get the Butterfly Garden. For the May/June newsletter, a wish list is being developed by Wendy and Pam. Friends' will do an appeal letter in the fall. The Friends will host a Strawberry festival at the Center in May or June.

Wendy wondered if there should be an Open House during the Memorial Day Fair, possibly with an art show, craft and jewelry sale. Commission responded positively.

Nancy questioned whether the Weston Senior Services and Resource Directory is too long and would like to see a two page version like the one featured in the annual *Senior To Go* publication. Wendy recommended a 2 page update inserted annually in the Center's September newsletter. The Commission felt this was a good idea.

Meeting adjourned at 10:42 a.m.

Notes taken by Nina Daniel