

**COMMISSION ON AGING**  
**Minutes**  
**April 1, 2013**

**Present:** Commission members Helen de Keijzer, Peggy Anderson, Bruce Lorentzen, Don Gumaer, Laura Smits, Nina Daniel, Margarita Shapiro. Senior Center Director Wendy Petty and Program Coordinator Pam Wilson; Social Services Director Charlene Chiang-Hillman; Dial-A-Ride Driver Gordon Green; SWCAA liaison: Meta Schroeter.

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

**March Minutes:** Minutes were approved by consensus.

**SWCAA:** Meta reported that the group held its meeting at the Greenwich Daycare Riverside facility. Chris Crain, of the CHOICES program is creating a questionnaire about Medicare and Medicaid to be used statewide. Grant applications are due on April 19<sup>th</sup> and will be reviewed by the committee in May/June. Amount of awards are unknown but will definitely be lower. Many senior centers are offering AARP tax help. Some centers are contemplating the use of the name “Senior” and looking for more updated alternatives.

**Transportation:** Gordon stated that he had nothing new to report.

**Social Services Report:** Charlene reported that money for energy assistance is depleted and the Warm-Up Fund does not distribute funds until May. Charlene has been able to supplement with help from Kiwanis and other local service organizations. Helen asked how many seniors are in this category of need; Charlene guessed that it was approximately 30%. She is still experiencing difficulty with non-compliant seniors even when adult children are involved.

**Senior Center Director Report:** Wendy reported that attendance at the Center is growing and that parking continues to be a challenge. There was a discussion about the budget and how much work should be done on the garden.

**Friends of the Senior Center:** Nina reported that the demographics of the town are changing, using information from the 2010 census and zipcode.com Households with children under 18 has dropped, while households with adults above 62 had increased by 23

or 24%. The Friends would like to focus on advocacy issues. Nina raised ideas such as alternatives to single family houses and “freezing” taxes. Helen mentioned that the town already has meaningful tax abatement, deferral, and freeze programs for seniors. Discussion ensued. Nina suggested that we study the issue, looking into the various plans in other towns. Helen said that this was a topic for the long-range planning meeting in June. Nina reported on the Lifestyles Fair and stated that while the Fair was a success, publicity was scarce outside of Weston even though she sent materials to all of the major area newspapers. Next time we should have more signage. There were also some new program ideas for the Center that came out of the Fair that she will pass along to Wendy and Pam.

The Long-Range Planning Meeting: Will be held on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:15 due to commitments in June. The next meetings will be Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> and Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits