

# COMMISSION ON AGING

## Minutes

November 4, 2013

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

Helen convened the meeting at 9:20 a.m. and took a moment to acknowledge the passing of Charlene's mother.

**Minutes:** The October minutes were approved by consensus.

**SWCAA:** Meta reported that the last meeting on October 17<sup>th</sup> was the organization's annual meeting and was held at Testo's in Bridgeport. There were about 100-150 people in attendance representing fourteen towns and cities. Marie Allen talked about re-structuring some departments due to cutbacks. United Healthcare has so far dropped 800 doctors from their Medicare Advantage program. There are many scams out there due to the Affordable Care Act starting on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The group emphasized that the ACA has little to do with Medicare.

**Transportation:** Gordon has been having calls to go to the Whittingham Cancer Center at Norwalk Hospital, and since he also has a dialysis patient, he could use some backup. Discussion ensued as to possible solutions, including a supplemental driver and vehicle to handle one or two residents who have specific, regular needs but do not require wheelchair accessibility. Gordon also stated that he now has some new riders who have moved in with their adult children or have stopped driving.

**Social Services Report:** Charlene reported that she is busy and has Suzanne helping with Medicare re-enrollment and fuel assistance applications. There is a new program in CT funded by PROACT to help people get discounts on medications. So far 16 households in Weston have taken advantage of this discount program. Her department is currently coordinating with various community groups on preparation of Holiday gift baskets. There are 127 open cases of financial need; records are in the process of being updated.

**Senior Center Director Report:** Wendy reminded Commissioners about the Holiday Gift Sale starting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Since that date is also the first day of an art show at the Center, the scheduled Commission meeting will be canceled. Our next meeting will be on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Wendy and Pam are starting to work on next year's budget. Halloween party was a big success. The number of people attending Senior Lunch is rising.

**Programs:** Pam reported that there will be a Super Bowl party this year. Bruce will assist with the details.

**Friends of the Senior Center:** Nina reported that the Friends had a meeting with Wendy and Pam to discuss new initiatives for the Center. In the next year \$10,000 will be spent on programming, including bus trip subsidies, finding new instructors, light lunches with entertainment at the Center, and cooking classes.

Nina also reported that she has been doing some research on New Canaan's "Staying Put" program, and would like to bring something similar to Weston with a list of vendors who would be "vetted" to help seniors with maintenance and home repair issues. She mentioned that two challenges to helping seniors in Weston are home maintenance and driving. She will continue to research how other towns manage these same issues. Helen suggested that Nina and she meet with the RVNA staff member from Quality Living at Home in Ridgefield who helped the Stay at Home Wilton program get started. Helen will follow-up and they will report back in January.

New Business: Helen is still trying to get a bi-monthly column about "Health and Wellness" in the newsletter, and Pam will investigate whether or not Monica Wheeler of the Westport/Weston Health District has some prepared material on this subject. Nina suggested a survey to the community to assess the needs of Weston seniors. Discussion ensued. The Senior Center's Holiday Party will be on December 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Helen encouraged everyone to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Smits